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# FINANCIAL TIMES

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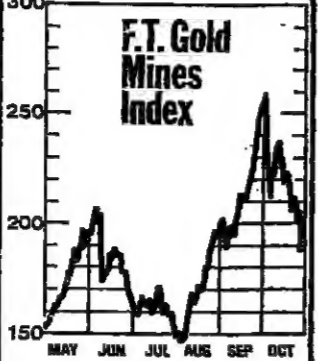
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## NEWS SUMMARY

**GENERAL**  
**UK takes tough stand on Rhodesia**  
A serious clash between Britain and the Commonwealth loomed as Lord Carrington, chairman of the Lancaster House conference, insisted that the UK must have complete control of a pre-independence transitional government in Rhodesia.  
He said the United Nations could have no role in Rhodesia and the proposed interim government must be based on existing civilian and military institutions. His tough stand provoked evidence of Commonwealth support for the Patriotic Front alliance, which is opposed to the British interim proposals.  
A Commonwealth attempt to bridge the gap between the UK and the Patriotic Front is being made by Jamaica's Prime Minister Michael Manley. He is due to discuss the issue with Mrs. Thatcher.

**BUSINESS**  
**Gold off 6.0; Equities rally**  
EQUITIES rallied. The FT 30-share index closing 6.6 up at 300.  
  
446.8. Golds fell, the FT Gold Mines Index closing 6.0 down at 187.5.  
GILTS improved, the Government Securities Index closing 0.47 up at 69.33.  
STERLING closed 85 points down at \$2.0960. Its trade-weighted index was unchanged at 67.5. The dollar's index rose to 85.9 (86.5).  
GOLD fell \$1 to close at \$374 in London.  
WALL STREET was 0.08 down at 809.23 before the close.  
BRITISH Steel said it was prepared to more than double its coking coal imports - to between 5m and 6m tonnes - if the National Coal Board did not cut prices by about £10 a tonne. Back Page

**Swann attack**  
Cutting \$4m from the BBC's foreign language budget - as demanded by the Government - would "wipe out" Britain as a serious external broadcaster, said BBC chairman Sir Michael Swann. The cuts would be irreversible as the gaps would be filled by other nations.

**\$550 rise**  
A \$550 a week rise for Glaxo's chairman and chief executive Austin Ede is disclosed in the annual report of the drugs and pharmaceutical company. His annual salary increased from \$55,582 to \$73,180 - a weekly wage of more than £1,400. Results, Page 4

**Envoy recalled**  
The U.S. is temporarily to recall its ambassador from Czechoslovakia as a "symbolic gesture of displeasure" over the conviction of six human rights activists in Prague, the State Department said. He will stay in Washington for about a week.

**Hua in London**  
Talks in London between Chairman Hua Guofeng, the Chinese leader, and Mrs. Thatcher largely concentrated on Kampuchea and other Indochina issues. Earlier Mr. Hua made a 10-hour trip along the Thames to visit the Tower of London. Back and Page 6

**Record award**  
Record High Court damages of £282,500 were awarded to schoolteacher Elizabeth Sheehan, 30, who suffered severe brain damage when she was given the wrong gas during a routine operation at London's Westminster Hospital.

**Exchange row**  
More than 450 anti-nuclear demonstrators were arrested after an unsuccessful attempt to block the opening of the New York Stock Exchange. About 3,000 men and women lay down at entrances as a protest against investment in the nuclear industry. Page 6

**Basque strike**  
A 24-hour general strike paralysed the Basque region of Spain. It was called by the main trade unions to protest at the murder of a socialist worker. The militant Basque separatist organisation ETA denied any involvement in the killing. Page 3

**Briefly**  
Independent Broadcasting Authority is to spend \$30m on buildings and equipment for the fourth television channel, opening in 1982. Page 10  
Thousands of Berliners cheered President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the first French head of state to visit the divided city. Page 3

**CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY**  
(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISERS		FALLS	
Treasury 12% 1983	296.4 + 11	Burmah Oil	183 + 4
Treas. 11% 2003-07	292.1 + 11	Cluff Oil	725 + 75
BATs Defd.	247 + 5	Lunova	308 + 15
Beecham	137 + 5	Cons. Gold Fields	310 + 23
Distillers	224 + 4	Cons. Gld Flds Aust	275 + 20
Eurotherm	305 + 8	RTZ	296 + 13
Henlys	107 + 6		
ICI	242 + 3		
Kenning	70 + 3	Exchequer 3% 1984	£744 - 1
Ladbroke	181 + 7	Burton A	246 - 12
Land Secs.	276 + 6	Crowthor (J.)	15 - 3
MEPC	164 + 4	Dowty	270 - 3
Mothcare	183 + 4	Laporte	970 - 3
Racal Elec.	223 + 5	Sterling Credit	15 - 4
Reed International	165 + 5	Stylo Shoes	300 - 10
Strong & Fisher	84 + 6	Wallis Fashion	56 - 6
Unigate	103 + 4	Doornfontein	314 - 18
Vitatron NV	277 + 11	Hartbeest	£178 - 1
Wearwell	51 + 10	Impala Pkft.	£183 - 10
Wilkinson Match	158 + 6	Venterspost	289 - 16

## Gas-flare curb will cut UK North Sea oil supply by 10%

BY SUE CAMERON

UK oil supplies from the North Sea will be cut by more than 10 per cent this winter as the result of a Government decision to crack down on wasteful flaring of gas in the giant Brent Field.

Shell and Esso, which are jointly developing the field, warned that the move could lead to higher prices for products such as fuel oil, petrol and heating oil. The possibility of shortages during the winter months could "not be ruled out."

The decision to restrict gas flaring on Brent, the biggest oil and gas field in the UK sector of the North Sea, was announced yesterday by Mr. Hamish Gray, Minister of State for Energy, in a Parliamentary answer.

Oil companies operating in the North Sea must have Government permission to flare gas.

The aim of the move is to conserve Britain's North Sea gas reserves. At present 340m cu ft of gas from Brent is flared daily, equivalent to about 10 per cent of UK daily gas consumption.

This amount must be flared to enable the Brent Field to produce at its current rate of about 185,000 barrels a day. But now the Government has told Shell, operator of the field, that the next three months it must cut production there to 100,000 barrels a day.

This will mean that only about 170m cu ft of gas a day will have to be flared.

There are plans to reinject the gas into the field until it can be piped ashore through the Far North Liquid and Associated Gas System. But no Brent gas will go through the pipeline until late next year.

Shell is having considerable technical difficulties with its reinjection equipment.

The group said it hoped to start reinjecting gas on Brent before Christmas, and that \$110m would be spent on compression and reinjection systems for the Brent Field in the next year.

Both Shell and Esso are worried that the decision to cut Brent oil production will hit their own UK supplies hard.

The two companies send all the oil from Brent for use in the UK. Production from the field accounts for about 9 per cent of the 2m-barrels-a-day oil consumption.

The drop in total North Sea production, as in domestic supplies, is about 4.5 per cent.

Shell said it would be unable to make up the shortfall from Brent with other North Sea oil until spring at the earliest. In the winter it could not get

## CBI and TUC to debate economy with Ministers

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

A WIDE ranging debate about ways of tackling Britain's economic problems is to be staged by the Government with leaders of both sides of industry early in December in the forum of the National Economic Development Council.

This will be the first occasion since the General Election that leaders of the CBI and TUC have debated economic affairs jointly with the Government. It will enable senior Ministers to determine whether there should be a continuing dialogue on general economic subjects within the council.

The debate will take place at a time when there is increasing concern among senior Ministers and industrialists about this winter's pay claims and about declining industrial performance.

There is no plan to turn the occasion into a debate about the level of pay rises that should be allowed, even though the CBI will do its best to direct the discussion on to the impact that high wage rises have on industrial performance.

But the TUC will want to broaden the debate into questions such as public spending and inflation and it remains to be seen whether a row develops between the parties.

The agenda for the event was agreed recently at a special meeting of what is known as the Group of Four comprising Sir Douglas Warr, the Treasury's Permanent Secretary, Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, Sir John Methven, CBI director general, and Mr. Geoffrey Chandler, director general of the National Economic Development Office.

The Government will table the Treasury's short-term economic forecasts which are to be published a few days earlier, as well as this week's public spending White Paper.

The CBI there will be a gloomy report about industrial prospects, based on its quarterly economic trends report which is being published today as well as sharp warnings about the level of pay claims and settlements.

The TUC will also table a paper which will aim at broadening the scope of the debate as widely as possible, stressing that union leaders do not accept that pay rises are the only variable factor.

## Kuwait considers increase in prices

By James Buxton in Kuwait

KUWAIT IS considering seriously making a further increase in the price of its crude oil, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, Oil Minister, said yesterday. It would do so to restore the differential on the price of Kuwaiti crude in relation to the prices charged by other producers.

Kuwait raised the price of its crude by 10 per cent to \$21.45 per barrel early this month to restore the differential with Iraqi and Iranian crude, to which the price of Kuwaiti crude has traditionally been related.

But the result was a further round of price increases by other oil producers which had the effect of eroding the account of social and economic factors as well as the bare statistics on the size and location of fish stocks.

The EEC Commission is to set up a working group, including national representatives as well as Brussels staff, to study new fish stock figures from the International Council for the Exploitation of the Seas.

The group will report to the Commission next month. It is hoped its findings will form the basis of new proposals for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in time for a meeting of the Ministers on December 3 and 4.

However, British fishing industry lobbyists at the talks claimed the new proposals took the debate back 10 years. Catch

Sheikh Ali Khalifa said: "We haven't raised our price so far because we do not want to see more leap-frogging in the oil price."

"But we cannot be the only one left behind. Certain countries are exaggerating the differentials with us and that is not acceptable."

He would not say by how much Kuwait would raise its crude price.

Kuwait has contracts with its customers under which it can adjust the price to that enjoyed by the "most favoured seller" of comparable crude. It is producing about 2.2m barrels a day and its main customers are BP, Gulf and Shell.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa said: "Our problem is that with the current market situation spot prices are \$40 to \$5 a barrel. Under what circumstances if someone wanted to buy a product at \$45 would you sell it to him for \$21?"

The OPEC countries had been moderate and responsible in the price increases they had imposed, he said, but "this responsibility is not recognised in the West and if it isn't recognised people here might say what the heck am I doing it for?"

He believed that a unified OPEC price would be agreed at the OPEC ministerial meeting in Caracas in December. This depended on a number of factors between now and then.

£ in New York

	Oct. 26	Previous
Spot	\$21.100-110	\$21.100-110
1 month	\$20.0-25.0pre	\$20.0-25.0pre
3 months	\$19.0-24.0pre	\$19.0-24.0pre
15 months	\$18.0-23.0pre	\$18.0-23.0pre

## EEC Fish Ministers avoid row

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKES IN LUXEMBOURG

THE COMMON MARKET Fishery Ministers yesterday sidestepped a widely predicted confrontation, and agreed instead on a new study of the evidence on fish stocks within the Community "pond."

The new moves were welcomed by Mr. Peter Walker, the British Minister. He said they gave him a chance of a fresh start.

"I am confident that with patience, we will have a good chance of reaching a fishing agreement sometime in 1980," he said.

M. Joel Le Theule, the French Minister, suggested that the investigation should take account of social and economic factors as well as the bare statistics on the size and location of fish stocks.

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However, British fishing industry lobbyists at the talks claimed the new proposals took the debate back 10 years. Catch

## Lamb truck stopped

BY SIMON HENDERSON IN CHERBOURG

BRITISH FARMERS' determination to confront French restrictions on lamb imports was neatly parried at Cherbourg yesterday when a solitary French policeman asked the truck carrying a consignment of meat to wait on the quay until an official came from 50 miles away.

The "media event" organised by the National Farmers' Union for a party of six Euro-MPs and a host of journalists was reduced to nothing around a dozen French farmers opposed to importing the meat.

NFU fears of confrontation and possible danger to life and limb proved groundless. British Euro-MPs patiently gave radio interviews to French journalists and the demonstrators posed co-operatively for British television cameras.

Even if the Cherbourg consignment is allowed to leave the port by then, it still could be turned back when it arrives at its final destination, a wholesale importer in Cannes.

French farmers were protesting that prices of imported lamb undercut their own product. The French Government was ordered by the European court of Justice a month ago to abide by Common Market regulations and to allow the free import of the lamb. It has relented to the extent of allowing in 200 tonnes per week. Yesterday's consignment of just 2 tonnes was an attempt to break this restriction.

Mr. Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, is due to argue the case for free lamb imports to France at a meeting with his European colleagues in Luxembourg today.

Even if the Cherbourg consignment is allowed to leave the port by then, it still could be turned back when it arrives at its final destination, a wholesale importer in Cannes.

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

# Go-ahead given for Rotterdam LPG terminal

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

THE DUTCH Government has now go ahead, approval in principle for the siting of an LPG terminal in the Rotterdam area. The Cabinet, however, has made its decision dependent on the conclusions about the safety of an LPG terminal in a report which is being prepared by the Organisation for Applied Scientific Research.

The Cabinet's decision, which was announced by Mr. Dries van Agt, the Prime Minister, is an important step forward for a F1 350m (£83m) LPG terminal which British Petroleum and Royal Dutch/Shell hope to build in Europoort.

The Government last year decided that a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal should be sited at Eemshaven, a small port in the north-east of the Netherlands rather than in Rotterdam. This decision was taken largely in the interests of promoting industry and employment in the north-east, but strong objections had been raised against siting a potentially dangerous terminal in a densely populated area.

Rotterdam's function as a major energy port—it already handles large volumes of oil and coal—appeared threatened.

BP Nederland was cautious in its reaction to the Government announcement. A spokesman pointed out that the go-ahead for the proposed terminal still depends on the Organisation's report and on the approval of a number of local authorities in the area.

While it is premature to assume that the project will

now go ahead, approval in principle for the siting of an LPG terminal in the Rotterdam area was essential for the two companies, he said. Only Rotterdam has the infrastructure and allied chemical industries to make use of the LPG once it is brought ashore.

A report on the impact of an LPG terminal compiled by an official work group representing the local authorities of Rotterdam, the Rhinemouthe area and the province of South Holland, has come out in favour. It concluded that it would be an important stimulus for the area and would create new jobs. The terminal would lock into the pipeline distribution network of the Rotterdam area which would make for the safe transport of the LPG throughout the Netherlands and to neighbouring countries.

The local authorities which must still give approval for the terminal on environmental grounds, said they hoped to take a decision within the next six months. The safety report is expected later this year.

BP and Shell plan to build a new harbour for LPG tankers of up to 75,000 cubic metres capacity, as well as onshore storage tanks with 150,000 cubic metres capacity on a site already owned by BP in the Europoort area near the mouth of the Maas estuary. Initial capacity of the terminal would be 2m tonnes a year, rising to 4m-5m tonnes. The LPG is intended primarily for use as a petrochemical feedstock.

## Bad winter aggravates Dutch investment decline

BY OUR AMSTERDAM CORRESPONDENT

INVESTMENT BY Dutch industry and by the Government fell in the first half of 1979 compared with the same period in 1978, according to Central Statistics Office figures.

The decline suggests that even the modest forecasts made for investment for the year as

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a whole may not be met. Spending by private and public sectors in volume terms, fell 5 per cent. While investment increased in the second quarter by 10 per cent, this was not enough to compensate for the effects of the severe winter, which depressed spending levels by the building industry in particular in the first three months.

Investment by the construction industry in the first half of 1979 was 14 per cent down

# Italians shocked by rocket murder at football match

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE FIRST murder of a football spectator in Italy, at the Olympic stadium here, has produced turmoil extending beyond the confines of the country's multi-million-pound football industry.

Sig. Vincenzo Paparelli was struck at the weekend by what is believed to have been a rocket used by farmers for hail dispersal to protect fruit crops, just an hour before the start of a vital derby match between the capital's two first division teams, AS Roma and Lazio.

The missile, for which a cumbersome hand-held launcher is required, was fired by Roma supporters 300 yards away at the opposite end of the stadium. Another was also fired but landed outside the ground, not far from the Foreign Ministry building.

The case was at once treated by police as one of murder, and they yesterday named a suspected youth. This did not prevent calls

for a ban on all matches in "dangerous" grounds until security measures have been improved. The suggestions were dismissed by Sig. Luigi Petroselli, Rome's new Communist Mayor, but he urged greater collaboration between local authorities and supporters' clubs. Some politicians yesterday expressed alarm at the possible harm to Italy's international sporting image. Given the increasing violence in so much of Italian

life, including football, it is perhaps surprising that such an incident has not happened already.

Hooliganism and vandalism are today as much a part of league soccer in Italy as they are in Britain. The role of football in national life can be gauged from the space—anything up to six full pages—devoted to it every day by even the most serious newspapers, often in florid and bloodcurdling terms.

Today the major soccer

stadiums, especially in Milan and Rome, are urban battlefields on Sunday afternoons, complete with exploding flares, smoke-bombs and an arsenal of weaponry.

As the violence has increased, the quality of the entertainment has diminished. Among Italian football clubs, weighed down by an estimated £150m (£30m) of accumulated debt, the fear of losing has become paramount. Goals have become almost a collector's item. The scoring

rate is the lowest in Europe and the first day of the 1979-80 first division season produced just seven goals. Seven of the eight matches were draws.

The risk now is that the spectators, whose support has held up remarkably well, may begin to stay away. But even the murder of Sig. Paparelli may not have been entirely in vain if it helps to produce an overdue reappraisal of the football business in Italy.

## NORTH SEA FISHING DISPUTE

# Danes angry at Britain's 'high-handed action'

BY WILLIAM DUFFLORCE IN COPENHAGEN

MR. SVEND JAKOBSEN, Denmark's Fisheries Minister until he became Finance Minister last Friday, has impassioned views about British fishing policy. He says it is "totally unreasonable." In his view, any movement towards a common EEC fisheries policy at the present Council of Fisheries Ministers meeting in Luxembourg means Mr. Peter Walker, the British Minister, must show willingness to modify Britain's current position.

Mr. Jakobsen's remarks, in an interview with the Financial Times, illustrate the state of play between the EEC's two largest fishing nations. Danish fishermen catch more fish, but the larger part is reduced to fishmeal and oil. The British catch, mostly edible fish, has a considerably higher value.

The difference in the type of fishing lies at the root of the two countries' quarrel over the "Norway put box" off Scotland. Britain's unilateral ban on fishing for Norway put in this area is one of the fishery matters on which the EEC Commission has taken it to the European Court of Justice.

Britain's case is that the small-mesh nets used by the Danes in catching Norway put also take up edible fish, mostly haddock and whiting, which are still in the growing state. These so-called bi-catches are undermining the stocks of edible fish in the area.

Denmark is not arguing against the need to conserve stocks of fish for human consumption, Mr. Jakobsen stresses. But it does dispute the reasoning behind Britain's total ban on the fishing of Norway put. And it objects to Britain's high-handed action "over an issue

which should have been dealt with on a Community basis.

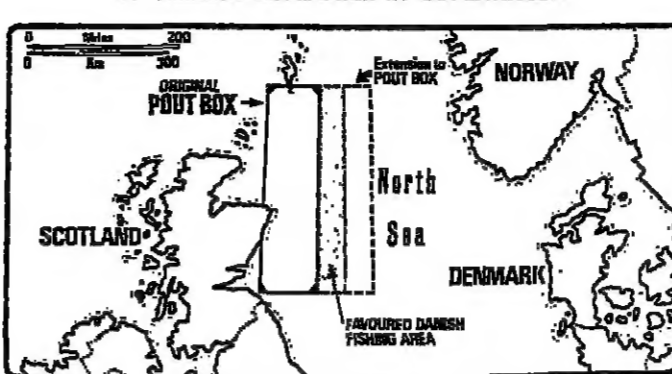
At various times the Danes have offered to adjust their fishing practices to meet British concerns for the conservation of edible fish. They have offered regulations limiting the bi-catches of edible fish to 10 per cent of the total catch. And because in many areas of the box the edible and "industrial" fish are found at different depths, they have declared their willingness to restrict their boats to fishing within these areas.

But the offers have elicited only a stone-wall reaction in London. After Britain renewed its ban on fishing in the put box from October 1, Danish fishing vessels lined the border of the box, ready to move in, while the fishermen's association in Copenhagen sought Government agreement to pay any fines imposed by the British and compensation for confiscated equipment. The EEC tottered on the verge of a civil put war.

The Danish authorities backed off and instead offered their fishermen compensation in the form of subsidies to render profitable the catching of other types of industrial fish. The amount of the compensation has not been specified.

The Danish Fisheries Ministry estimates that the put catch lost through the British ban is of the order of 100,000 tonnes. At current prices that would be worth between Dkr 50m and Dkr 60m (£4.5m to £5.4m).

It is unlikely, however, that



the British ban. The winter fishing for put within the box is an integral part of the economics of the Danish west coast industrial fishing operations.

During other seasons the boats catch sand eels and sprats to feed the reduction plant. But stocks of these fish do not permit a year-round toll. Prices for fishmeal and oil fluctuate, usually in line with soya bean prices. But the operation is not profitable, unless the boats can fish throughout the year.

Mr. Jakobsen calculates that some 3,000 Danes are directly affected by the put box. Expressed in landing prices the total Danish fish reduction operation was worth about Dkr 350m in 1978. Exports of fishmeal and oil brought in some Dkr 1.2bn, of which a quarter came from sales to Britain and roughly the same amount from West Germany.

Danish tempers have not been improved by their failure this month to get their own EEC Commissioner, Mr. Finn Gundelach, to seek an injunction from the European Court

ordering Britain to lift its ban while the put box issue was under consideration. This left them with no other recourse than to await the Court's judgment.

Danish policy as outlined by Mr. Jakobsen now has three aims. First, to have the put box opened, assisted by a judgment from the European Court. Second, to ensure that the EEC common fisheries policy, when finally formulated, includes a procedure for dealing with new situations which would prevent unilateral action by any one of the nine.

The third aim is to obtain a division of the EEC's fish resources incorporating recognition of historical fishing rights. Denmark recognises the damage done to British fishing by the world-wide switch to the economic zone principle and believes the distribution of quotas within the EEC should, after Britain some compensation. But it believes this should not be done to the extent of almost doubling its historical catch

## Warnings sounded on Denmark's borrowing

BY HILARY BARNES IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK IS approaching the economic abyss, according to Mr. Knud Heinesen, who resigned as Finance Minister last week.

In a television interview at the weekend he explained that, by this, he meant that in two or three years time the terms on which Denmark can borrow abroad may become prohibitive and it will then be necessary to go to the IMF, which will lay

down terms for assistance.

Concern about borrowing has also been expressed by Mr. Erik Hoffmeyer, governor of the central bank, who said in an interview that the country's ability to borrow abroad on normal terms could be endangered if action on the economy is not taken by Christmas.

The Government, he said, should aim to reduce the balance

of payments deficit by Dkr 3bn to Dkr 4bn (£265m-£354m) in 1980 compared with the deficit this year of about Dkr 13bn (£1.15bn).

The Social Democratic minority Government which took office on Friday following last week's election is aiming to introduce a comprehensive incomes policy, probably including a freeze on prices, wages and

other incomes.

Mr. Heinesen has denied that it was policy differences that caused him to refuse to serve in the new Government. He said that after five years as Finance Minister he wanted a change.

He has been appointed to the influential post of chairman of the Social Democratic parliamentary group.



Mr. Knud Heinesen

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

## Basque general strike in protest at murder

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

THE BASQUE country was paralysed by a 24-hour general strike yesterday. Called by the main trade unions in protest at the assassination on Saturday of a Socialist union member, it has served to emphasise the widespread rejection of violence.

Responsibility for the assassination was claimed by an "autonomous" commando of the militant Basque separatist group ETA. But there is now some doubt about the authenticity of this claim.

The dead trade unionist, Sr. German Gonzalez Lopez, was a member of the General Workers Union. He was killed in Guipuzcoa province by two youths only two days after the referendum on Basque autonomy had endorsed the Madrid Government's plan for the region. It was the first terrorist killing in 10 days, and produced immediate protests and concern among Basque political parties.

ETA has normally confined itself to attacking symbols of central Government authority, especially the military, and suspected informers. Occasional

cases of assassination by ETA have been attributed to specific antagonism.

Because the ETA claim was issued to news agencies and because of an apparent change in tactics, there are fears of a new virulent campaign directed against those who approved the autonomy statute. Sr. Gonzalez had campaigned in favour of it.

The unions have reacted quickly to demonstrate their hostility to this eruption of violence, this time directed against their own members.

As the strike was being staged yesterday, the political-military wing of ETA, which supported the autonomy statute, claimed that it was not the type of action carried out by ETA. He insisted that the killing was designed to alienate the Basque Left and working class from ETA.

Either way, the assassination has underlined the delicacy of the situation in the Basque country even though a majority has endorsed autonomy through a referendum.

One theory canvassed yesterday was that the murder

showed up splits within ETA and that it was the work of a disaffected commando. There is little doubt that the value of continued violence is being debated within ETA. With the prospect of the Basque region being able to establish its own police force, the terrorists are aware that there could be clashes between Basques.

During the referendum campaign there was a noticeable drop in the level of violence. In part, this was attributed to increased police vigilance, but it also appears that ETA realised the negative consequences of such action.

ETA itself is an increasingly heterogeneous grouping. The military wing has been mainly responsible for assassinations until now. The political-military wing split last summer after the central government negotiated the text of an autonomy statute with Basque parliamentarians.

In addition to these two factions, there are believed to be a number of "autonomous" commandos whose allegiance is uncertain.

## Unemployed may double in France by 1985

By David White in Paris

PUBLIC UNEASE about job prospects in France has been increased by an official study suggesting that by 1985 unemployment might be about 2.5m, almost twice the current level.

This figure is drawn from a series of hypotheses put forward by INSEE, the Government's statistics office.

The various scenarios, differing according to oil price developments and the forcefulness of adjustment measures, are being used as a basis for committee work on the 1981-85 national plan.

A fairly sharp increase in unemployment is contained in all of them. In the best case, the number looking for work would increase by 70,000 a year and in the worst case by 150,000.

The study assesses the impact of economic strategies in either "favourable" or "unfavourable" international contexts.

The favourable context implies basically that oil prices keep in line with inflation, the unfavourable that they increase by 7 per cent a year in real terms.

The two broad lines of economic policy are "adjustment"—on the lines of the present Barre plan—and a profounder structural adaptation, which would mean increases in public and private investment, shorter working hours, and reduced dependence on energy imports.

The first policy approach would lead to an annual economic growth in 1978-85 of 2.9 per cent in the better case and 2.5 per cent in the worse case. The second approach would push these rates up to 3.2 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively.

With the less vigorous adjustment policy, inflation would slow down after 1981, and consumer prices would rise at an average annual rate of 6.2-6.5 per cent.

The trade performance is seen as moderate, the cost of energy being offset by a surplus on services. Investment, however, is expected to remain weak, picking up only after 1982.

## IMPACT OF EEC AGRICULTURE PAYMENTS GROWS

## Bonn's budget contribution falling

BY JONATHAN CARR IN BONN

WEST GERMANY's net contribution to the European Community budget so far this year is running well below that of 1978, according to Bundesbank figures. This is due mainly to increased West German receipts under common agricultural policy (CAP) regulations.

The statistics go some way to show why Britain will overtake West Germany next year as the biggest net contributor to the EEC unless action is taken to avoid this. The topic will be discussed in the British-German summit consultations which start here tomorrow between

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The figures show that in the first eight months of this year West Germany paid a total of DM 8.1bn (£2.08bn) to the EEC and received DM 5.9bn (£1.52bn) from it—a net contribution of DM 2.2bn (£567m). In the same period last year the West Germans paid DM 7.4bn (£1.9bn) and received DM 4.7bn (£1.21bn)—a net contribution of DM 2.7bn (£693m).

This continues a pattern over the years in which larger West German gross contributions to the EEC have been paralleled by even bigger receipts via the CAP, notably for finance of sur-

plus production in the milk sector.

Between January and August this year, West German receipts under the CAP totalled DM 5.2bn, just over DM 1bn more than in the same period of 1978. For the whole of 1978 these receipts totalled DM 7.2bn, compared with DM 5.7bn in 1977.

The Bundesbank figures differ somewhat from those issued by the Bonn Finance Ministry, partly because of time differences in compiling the statistics. But both show a sharp drop in the country's net contribution to the EEC from 1977 to 1978, and both agree that the impact of

the CAP is largely responsible.

In contrast, Britain, with its relatively small farming community, relies greatly on food imports, and has continued to take much produce from outside the EEC, notably from Commonwealth countries. These third-country imports are subject to levies which must be paid to Brussels.

There is evident private embarrassment within the Social Democrat element of the coalition government in Bonn at the impact of the CAP on the West German contribution. This feeling has also spread to strong elements within the other coalition party, the Free Democrats.

## Giscard breaks with past in Berlin visit

BY LESLIE COLT IN BERLIN

A STATE visit to West Berlin of dual significance was made yesterday by M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of France.

He became the first French Head of State to set foot in Berlin since Emperor Napoleon I entered the conquered city in 1806 after crushing the Prussian army.

President Giscard also broke with the refusal of every post-war French President to become personally involved with the former capital of the German Reich when he arrived at Tegel Airport.

Speaking in German in front of the borough town hall of Wedding in the French sector, President Giscard called West Berlin a "bastion of liberty." He also reviewed several thousand French soldiers serving in the city, 110 miles inside East Germany.

The French President reaffirmed his country's commitment to West Berlin together with its allies in the city, Britain and the United States. He said France would resist any attempts to alter unilaterally the 1971 Four-Power Berlin Agreement between the Western allies and the Soviet Union.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, accompanied the French President in Berlin for several hours, reflecting the close ties between West Berlin and Bonn, although the allies have supreme authority over the city.

Chancellor Schmidt looked on as President Giscard signed the city's golden book which contains the signatures of almost



President Giscard at a memorial near the Berlin wall for an East German refugee killed while trying to escape.

every post-war American President, British Prime Minister and Queen Elizabeth II.

The West German leader also walked beside President Giscard on the Kurfürstendamm, where the President shook hands with cheering Berliners to cries of vive la France.

Huguenots from France made up 20 per cent of Berlin's population in the early 1800s and this perhaps explained the enthusiasm of West Berliners for the French President.

He paid the ultimate tribute by eating a classic item of Berlin gastronomy, a *bratlette*, the local version of the hamburger.

## Rise in W. German cost of living reaches 5.7%

BY OUR BONN STAFF

THE COST of living in West Germany rose again this month to 5.7 per cent at an annual rate compared with 5.3 per cent in September, according to official but preliminary figures.

The Federal Statistical Office yesterday reported that living costs this month alone rose by 0.3 per cent compared with a rise in September against August of 0.1

Full data will not be available for a few days. However, a further rise in the annual rate was thought inevitable in view of the particularly low rate towards the end of 1978 with which this year's results are now being compared.

The average cost of living rise for this year compared with last is expected to be about 4.5 per cent.

## De Larosiere caution on flexible exchange rates

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER IN PARIS

FLEXIBLE EXCHANGE rates do not insulate economies from each other, nor lessen the need for basic economic policy adjustments, M. Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said yesterday.

In spite of the widespread floating of currencies, he said, it was clear that the world's economies continued to be highly interdependent.

Even in the absence of "dirty" floating, which resulted in monetary flows from one economy to another through central bank intervention, there were several reasons why flexible rates could not fully insulate a domestic economy from external influences.

M. de Larosiere was speaking at a foreign exchange conference organised by the International Herald Tribune and Forex Research. He said that one of the main reasons was that, in a large number of cases, changes in nominal rates had

been offset by inflation differentials. This limited real exchange movements.

For most devaluing or appreciating countries, it took a year or more before a noticeable change occurred in their real trade balance, and a much longer period might be required to achieve the full result of a change in the exchange rate.

It was during this period, the relative cost improvement in devaluing countries was eroded by domestic inflation, while the relative cost deterioration in appreciating countries was dampened by reduced inflation rates, then the full effects of the exchange rate change would not come through. The need for basic policy adjustments remained, therefore.

The high level of external trade in relation to domestic production in many countries was another reason why flexible exchange rates could not entirely insulate economies from each other.

## Manning row halts Belgium steel plant

By Our Brussels Staff

HOT STEEL production has stopped at Belgium's largest steel maker, Cockerill, after a dispute over manning an internal railway system at the company's plant in Liege. The company has temporarily laid off 5,000 workers.

Unions called a halt to work yesterday when management refused to replace the automatic pilots on the trains with mechanics, following two accidents in which no one was hurt.

A proposal from management to man the trains temporarily until the safety of the automatic equipment is assured has been put to the unions. But they want a permanent two-man team on each train, a driver and a coupler.

Although Cockerill—29 per cent owned by the State—has had to shut down its furnaces, officials claim that production of crude steel is unaffected by the action.

## Not all the best specialists are in Harley Street



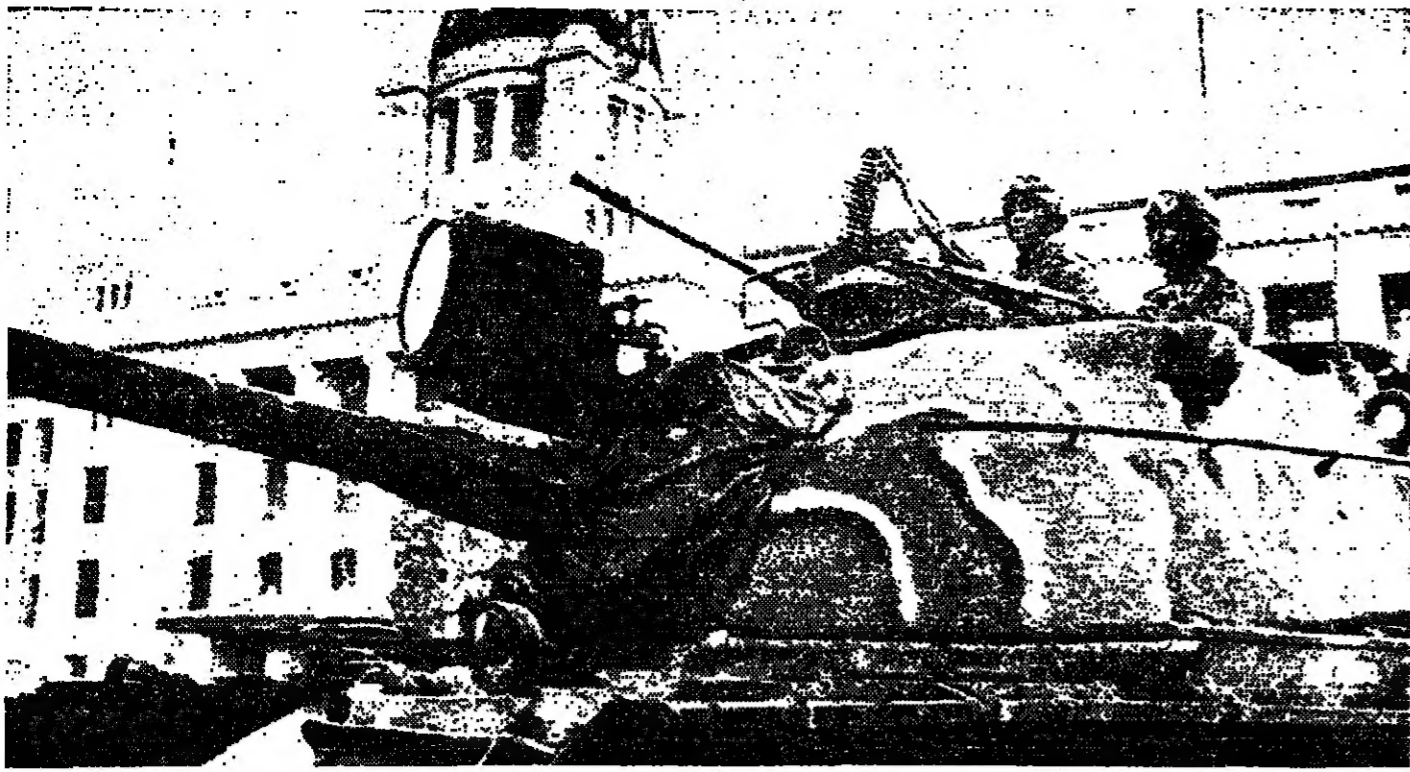
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## OVERSEAS NEWS



A Korean tank stands guard in front of the Capitol building in Seoul following the assassination of President Park.

## U.S. task force off S. Korea

SEOUL—A United States naval task force cruised off the Korean peninsula yesterday to deter North Korea from taking advantage of the assassination of South Korean President Park Chung-hee.

South Korean military chiefs and senior cabinet ministers met to discuss the situation on the border with North Korea after the death of President Park, who was shot on Friday by his intelligence chief, Kim Jae-kyu. There have been no official reports of tension along the 150-mile border, but martial law has been declared and South Korea's 600,000-strong armed forces are on emergency alert.

Military officers in Japan said that a powerful U.S. naval task force, including the SLAM-100 carrier Klityhawk with about

80 attack aircraft, was cruising in international waters in the East China Sea off South Korea.

The carrier was escorted by three guided missile cruisers, three destroyers and a frigate, they added.

Immediately after the death of President Park, who had ruled South Korea for 18 years, the U.S. put on alert its 38,500 troops stationed in the country.

Mr. Harold Brown, U.S. Defence Secretary, said yesterday that the U.S. had strengthened its military forces in and around South Korea to deter "external interferences or adventurism."

David Housego adds: North Korea's official party newspaper Nodong Siumun described the shooting of President Park as a reflection of the increasingly

serious social and political crisis in South Korea.

It summed up his career by saying he had suppressed students and democratic representatives at bayonet point and had persecuted and murdered his opponents on the pretext of anti-Communism.

A semi-clandestine radio station called on South Koreans to overthrow the new regime and force the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The "Voice of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification," believed to broadcast from within North Korea, called President Park's death "fitting punishment" for his crimes.

AP writes: China's leading newspaper, the People's Daily, suggested yesterday that the South Korean armed forces

might be "protecting" Kim, who is in their custody.

Noting that Kim "escaped unscathed," it said: "Later he was only dismissed from his post and detained by the military control authorities. Some political figures regarded this as an action aimed at protecting him."

The newspaper also said some observers in Seoul "regarded it as a palace coup" which had something to do with the political upheaval in South Korea.

South Korea has been rocked by anti-government disturbances in recent weeks which reportedly caused serious tensions within the Park regime. But the Government claimed that Kim shot President Park because he had fallen out of favour with the President and feared losing his job.

## Ohira move in squabble over Japan leadership

By Richard C. Hanson in Tokyo

MR. MASAYOSHI OHIRA, the Japanese Prime Minister, appears to have cleared the way for some kind of resolution of the bitter factional squabbling within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) over whether he should resign because of the party's poor showing in the October 7 Lower House election.

It is highly unlikely, however, that a compromise can be reached in time for the first meeting of a special Diet (Parliament) session to be convened today in Tokyo to elect a new Prime Minister.

Mr. Ohira yesterday offered Mr. Eiichi Nishimura, the LDP vice-president, what he called a "carte blanche" to expedite the task of mediating with faction leaders seeking to oust him. This "carte blanche" could, but does not necessarily, include his resignation from the dual position of party chief and Prime Minister. Mr. Ohira said he would accept whatever judgment was reached.

Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the former Prime Minister (who was defeated by Ohira for party leadership last year), is leading the oust Ohira drive, along with factions headed by Mr. Takeo Miki, another ex-Prime Minister, former party secretary-general, Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Mr. Ohira's support rests on his own greatly strengthened faction and that of his closest ally, for the moment, ex-Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka.

It is not clear when a vote will finally come on the Prime Minister's post, or for that matter how long the session will last.

## Begin denies he plans to quit as crisis grows

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister, Mr. Menachem Begin, who is facing two crises threatening his Government, denied yesterday he was considering resigning.

The latest crisis was brought on by the resignation last week of Mr. Moshe Dayan, Israel's Foreign Minister, and a Supreme Court order to dismantle a Jewish settlement on the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Begin is encountering difficulty in reshuffling his Cabinet portfolios, but the greater threat to his coalition Government is the mounting clash with the Jewish settlers who say they will fight any attempt to move them.

Prof. Yigael Yadin, Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday rejected an invitation from Mr. Begin to take over the Foreign Ministry.

It would be unethical for him

to assume a post in which he would have to defend Government policies with which he disagreed, he said. He was referring specifically to the issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

After their meeting, Mr. Begin admitted the Government was in a "complicated" situation, adding that he was not certain the reshuffle could be completed by the end of this week as demanded by the Liberal Party.

Despite the air of crisis surrounding the reshuffle, it is thought unlikely that the coalition parties will risk elections now when their public popularity is at its lowest ebb.

The greater threat to the coalition remains the need to find a way quickly to implement the Supreme Court order to remove the Elton Moreh settlement on the West Bank without

this developing into an armed clash with the settlers. They have rejected suggestions that they move to another site.

The settlers refused to meet last night to plan their response to the Government's rejection of their demands for new legislation which would enable them to remain, despite the Court ruling that they must return the hill they occupy to its original Arab owners.

Mr. Ezer Weizman, Defence Minister, and Mr. Ariel Sharon, Minister in charge of settlements, met yesterday to try to find a way to resolve the problem peacefully.

This was one of the rare meetings between the two Cabinet strong men who disagree over settlement policy. No details of their discussions were immediately available.

## Environment row in Australia

BY PATRICIA NEWBY IN CANBERRA

THE AUSTRALIAN Government has come under attack from the Labor Opposition and conservation groups over reports that it plans to water down environmental protection legislation.

Documents leaked to the Press in the past week from Civil Service departments show support within the Government and the Civil Service for the view of the mining industry that environmental matters should be left to State governments.

The mining industry feels that the Environmental Protection Act leads to duplication, unnecessary expense, and delays. The Act, introduced during the Labor Government in 1974, empowers the federal Government to call for statements on

the environmental impact of proposed projects, particularly in mining, which are likely to have an adverse effect on the environment.

The preparation of these statements could involve a public inquiry lasting some months resulting in possible restraints and even a total ban on proposed projects.

Although environmental impact statements have not been called for since 1975, the threat of Federal Government action in the area of environmental protection has been a thorn in the mining industry's side.

Opposition to proposed changes largely centres on the inadequacy of state legislation to protect the community's interests on environmental

matters. Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation noted recently that only one state, Victoria, has comprehensive environmental legislation.

The committee recommends that legislation should not be amended in a way that would preclude study of proposed projects by the Federal Government.

It says that development of petrochemical plants and aluminium smelting is of sufficient size and cumulative effect to warrant public inquiry.

In the documents leaked this week, it is suggested that projects involving foreign investment should no longer fall within the scope of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

Such projects should be scrutinised by the Foreign Investment Review Board at the time of initial proposals and subsequently by the state in which the development is to take place.

Mr. John Howard, the Treasurer, is quoted in leaked departmental correspondence as saying: "There seems to me to be no compelling reason for aspects of foreign investment to be subject to the EPA."

The Government is still considering the legislation.

## Iran resignation highlights growing government split

BY ANDREW WHITLEY

DEEP AND growing divisions within the Iranian Government came out into the open yesterday with the resignation of Dr. Kazem Sami, the Health Minister.

Dr. Sami is head of a small, radical Islamic party known as JAMA. Its withdrawal from the administration leaves Dr. Mehdi Bazargan, the Prime Minister, with few allies outside the clergy.

In a bitter resignation letter, Dr. Sami told Ayatollah Khomeini the Cabinet was divided among power-seeking factions and lacked concerted policies to tackle the country's problems. The letter also focused on the popular disillusionment that eight months after the revolution, little had changed.

As if to demonstrate the lack of authority prevalent in Iran, even at the highest level, an Islamic court in the oil province of Khuzestan yesterday sentenced a man to death on

charges of homosexuality and robbery. Ten days ago, Ayatollah Khomeini had ordered a halt to all executions until further notice.

Within days of the order being promulgated, eight Arabs were shot by firing squad in Khuzestan after being accused of involvement in the recent spate of pipeline bomb explosions.

In Tehran, the belated start of the academic year has seen a return of Left-wing demonstrations after an absence of nearly three months. They took place despite strong warnings from the clergy and the Government against "trouble-making."

The active involvement of the Left in the Kurdish fighting was acknowledged publicly for the first time yesterday. Members of the Marxist Fedayin-e-Khalq guerrilla organisation were said by Kurdish rebels to have helped them, by surrounding a barracks occupied by the paramilitary Revolutionary Guards.

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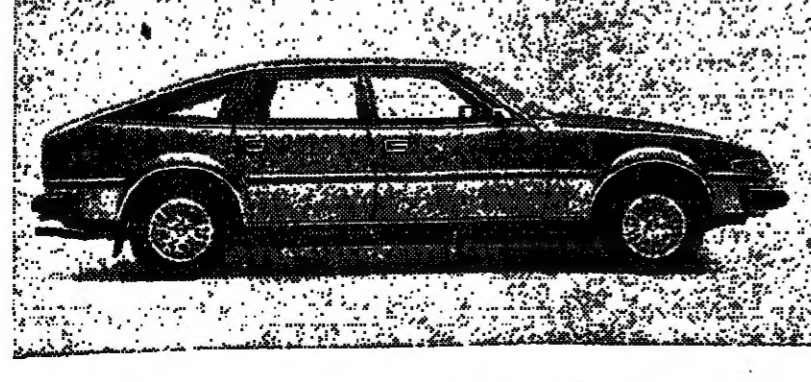


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# Steel users arrange winter stock imports

BY ROY HODSON

INDUSTRY has started to make emergency arrangements to import supplies of steel to offset the threatened slowdown in British steelmaking this winter.

Steel-using companies, steel merchants, and stockholders fear stocks of steel will be drained rapidly and that a shortage will develop unless new lines of imports are quickly arranged.

A combination of industrial troubles and planned works closures could reduce steel production by the British Steel Corporation by as much as 1m tonnes in the next few months.

The corporation will suspend output of bulk iron and steel-making at Ravenscraig, Scotland, at the end of next month unless the inter-union dispute over the manning of the new Hunterston ore terminal on the Clyde is resolved. The works has a capacity of 3m tonnes a year.

Meanwhile, final talks with the workforce on the proposed closure of iron and steelmaking at the 1m-tonnes-a-year plant at Shotton, North Wales, will take place in London on November 9. If the redundancy arrangements

are accepted the run-down of Shotton liquid steel production is due to begin in January.

Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told a delegation from the Wales Trades Union Congress yesterday that the closure of Shotton iron and steelmaking was a matter for management alone. The Government would not intervene.

The final meeting between the British Steel management and the workforce at Corby iron and steelworks, Northamptonshire, is planned for next Thursday, to hear union counter-proposals to the planned closure of iron and steelmaking there. The run-down at Corby could also start within the next six months.

Fears of a temporary steel shortage in Britain are certain to increase the level of imports. There are heavy stocks of steel in the British Steel mills and stockholders' warehouses following the engineering strike. But shortages could develop quickly if the Ravenscraig stoppage goes ahead and the Corby and Shotton closure programmes continue as planned. British Steel has promised

the National Association of Steel Stockholders in the last few days that if serious disruption to Scottish steelmaking is experienced from November, the corporation will make up supplies from other mills.

But to keep that promise the corporation will have to import thousands of tonnes of semi-finished steel in hot-rolled coil form from Continental mills for rolling at the Welsh and Scottish strip mills.

Stockholders have complained that it will be difficult to provide customers with the particular qualities and specifications they need for manufacturing processes.

Industry faces higher steel bills if greater reliance has to be placed on Continental supplies. Although imports are cheaper than home-produced steel, traders expect the prices charged by West European producers to rise if British demand grows.

Imports of certain forms of heavy steel products have doubled in the last few months as steel using companies have taken advantage of lower Continental prices.

## Paraffin spoils fish catch

Financial Times Reporter

FISH LANDED by two Forrester fishing boats valued at between £11,000 to £15,000 was spoiled yesterday at Aberdeen fish market when paraffin was thrown over 500 fish boxes.

The paraffin-throwing incident came during a protest by 150 Aberdeen fishing boat skippers and mates yesterday morning over the continued landings of Forrester catches at the fish market.

The fish spoiled, cod, haddock, and ling, was condemned by environmental health officers. It will be processed into fishmeal and tested before being sold.

Yesterday, two men had been charged with an offence relating to the incident and were released. Grampian police said they were investigating the incident and a report was being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Aberdeen, once the main UK trawling port for Forrester fishing, has been reduced to a point where skippers refuse to sail to Forrester waters because of restrictions in net mesh sizes, in the areas where fishing is allowed and because of alleged harassment by fishery protection craft.

UK fishermen are allowed to take 5,000 tonnes a year from the Forrester while the fishermen, under an agreement reached last year, UK trawling port for Forrester Government, can take 120,000 tonnes from British waters.

Yesterday Mr. Joe McLean, secretary of the Aberdeen Trawl Officers' Guild, said that action must be taken to stop Forrester boats from landing at Aberdeen.

## Post Office to defer some telephone charge rises

BY JOHN LLOYD

THE POST OFFICE is to defer a number of proposed increases in telecommunications charges until next year after bitter complaints from telephone users' groups.

The charges are for connection of new equipment, and would have gone up from £45 to £55 for domestic customers and much more steeply—100 per cent and more—for business equipment.

The loss of potential revenue has not yet been quantified, but is probably relatively slight. The rises, which the Post Office never officially announced, were to have come in yesterday.

However, the corporation said last night that it had a statutory duty to wait for a response to

the proposed increase from the Post Office Users' National Council, which is apparently about to produce a report on them.

The complaints directed at the proposed increases were not so much that tariffs were rising—they have been stable for four years—but because it was felt that the corporation was breaking a public undertaking not to make major increases until 1980.

Mr. Mark Elwes, secretary of the Telephone Users' Association, which had been particularly concerned over this issue, last night claimed a "qualified victory" in making the Post Office reconsider its policy.

The corporation did not accept that the connection

charges constituted a "major" increase. However, it seems that it now acknowledges that many of its customers will believe it has acted in bad faith, and is therefore likely to comply with its original plan.

The major rises, which have always been planned for January, include call charges going up from 3p to 3.5p a unit, and call box tariffs rising from 2p to 5p.

The telecommunications business is expected to fall short of its profit target this year, largely because of revenue loss due to a strike by computer operators who handle telephone bills. The present postponement of price increases will slightly exacerbate that loss.

## Pirelli wins CEEB cable order

By John Lloyd

THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY Generating Board has placed a contract for undersea cables worth between £25m and £30m with Pirelli General, the UK subsidiary of the Italian tyre and cable company.

The cables will form the major part of the UK contribution to the high-voltage link between Britain and France.

Pirelli will supply all eight alternating current underwater cables, and half the ground cables. Contracts for the rest of the ground cables have still to be announced.

Sig. Jacopo Vittorelli, general manager of the holding company, Societ  Internazionale Pirelli, told the annual meeting in Basle yesterday that additional production facilities in Southampton would help the cable works in London fulfil the contract.

The order would take up the bulk of Pirelli General's capacity for about two years.

## Drilling starts on Hutton well

Financial Times Reporter

DRILLING of the first production well on the North West Hutton Field in the North Sea started yesterday, says Amoco Exploration, operator of the field. Government approval for the £500m development was given only three months ago.

The well is being drilled by the Venture 1 semi-submersible rig through a seabed template at the platform site. Amoco is operator on behalf of itself, Gas Council (Exploration), Mobil North Sea and Amerada Petroleum.

## Customs officers 'branded as liars'

Financial Times Reporter

INDONESIAN CUSTOMS officers, involved in a case in which hundreds of drums of exotic Eastern oils were found on arrival in Europe to contain water, had been branded as deliberate liars without any evidence to justify that conclusion, a High Court judge was told yesterday.

The extent of the allegations was "a little surprising," said Mr. David Johnson, QC, for commodity shippers Furst Day Lawson.

Sometimes the allegations had been made merely because the customs officers' evidence was inconsistent with one of the theories held by Orion Insurance, said Mr. Johnson.

Furst are suing Orion, as representative of the 20 underwriters who insured the oils in transit, for £53,951 and £1,924 after the underwriters refused to meet a claim for the missing oils.

The overall claim amounts to £512,683 plus other claims totalling £17,644.

One customs witness had been asked a number of questions on what he had been paid to give evidence, said Mr. Johnson.

But that did not get Orion Insurance far, as the reply had been that he had been paid his air fare to England and living expenses. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Justice Mocatta to bear in mind there had been problems with translation of evidence, for the translators themselves required translation.

The Indonesian customs were "on a hiding to nothing." If witnesses had not appeared the adverse conclusion could have been there was a cover-up.

As they had come, doubt was being thrown on their evidence on the basis that self-interest—"if not self-preservation"—dictated what they said.

He also asked the judge to reject allegations that Mr. Nico Waworuntu, proprietor of Farmaport, the Djakarta supplier of the oils, had committed an oil-switch fraud.

## Newman payments were 'concealed'

BY JOHN MAKINSON

A HIGH COURT Judge yesterday heard allegations that Mr. Alan Bartlett, chairman of Newman Industries, concealed the truth about a £216,000 payment by Newman early in 1975. Mr. Leonard Caplan QC put it to Mr. Bartlett that he had been deliberately deceptive in the matter.

The payment was made on account to Thomas Poole and Gladstone China (TPG) in the first three months of 1975. It was part of a total consideration of £325,000 which Newman paid for a package of TPG assets and liabilities.

The Prudential Assurance, which was a small shareholder in Newman, is charging that the Newman circular informing shareholders of the proposed deal was misleading. It is also claiming damages from Mr. Bartlett and Mr. John Knox Laughton for conspiracy and breach of duty. Mr. Bartlett was chairman of Newman and TPG at the time, while Mr. Laughton was vice-chairman of both companies.

Mr. Caplan, for the Prudential, claimed that there were six

Bartlett's part. He asked Mr. Bartlett why it was not stated in the agreement of June 3 between Newman and TPG that £216,000 had been paid. "I do not know," Mr. Bartlett replied, adding: "I did not draft the agreement."

The circular was dated June 21 and stated: "The company has paid £216,000 to TPG on account of the consideration." Mr. Caplan noted that no reference was made to the payment up to and including the last proof of the circular on June 18. He suggested that the late inclusion was made because Deloitte and Company, Newman's auditors, uncovered the figure of £216,000 while making cash-flow projections around this time.

Mr. Bartlett replied that this was far from the truth and said that the inclusion was made on the recommendation of one of Newman's advisers. Mr. Caplan also suggested that, in remarks to shareholders on July 8, Mr. Bartlett misled them into believing the payment was made after March 1975. Mr. Bartlett said it was possible that he had made some errors.

## Visscher atlas of 1710 is sold for £16,500

THE ATLAS MINOR by Visser, published around 1710, sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £16,500, plus the 10.8 per cent buyer's premium and VAT, to Hammond. The atlas came to Bond Street via Sotheby's newly-opened office at Cheltenham.

It was the top price in an atlas and map auction which totalled £107,121. A 1570 atlas of Ortelius which should have made an equally high price failed to find a buyer.

At Sotheby's Parkes Bernet Monaco on Sunday and yesterday the furniture collection of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, sold at the time, while Mr. Laughton was vice-chairman of both companies.

Mr. Caplan, for the Prudential, claimed that there were six

made £48,300. At Christie's, art nouveau and art deco sale in New York at the weekend, which totalled £2,273,885, a New York dealer paid £66,666 for a peony table lamp from the Tiffany Studios, dated 1903. A Tiffany wistaria

## SALE ROOM

BY ANTHONY THORNCROFT

Table lamp sold for £52,380, and a water lily leaded glass and bronze table lamp, also by Tiffany, realised £28,571. Christie's South Kensington sold the remaining contents of Akroyd Place, Burnham, Bucks, for just over £70,000.



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## UK NEWS

# First-time home buyers 'need cash assistance'

BY MICHAEL CASSELL

GROWING numbers of potential first-time purchasers will be unable to buy new houses unless they are helped by subsidy or some form of beneficial treatment, according to Sir Peter Trench, chairman of the Lovell Construction Group.

Sir Peter, who was addressing the Institute of Building's Birmingham Centre, said that house builders had difficulty constructing homes that people would be able to afford.

He predicted: "There will be fewer houses built than is strictly required from a demand point of view and these houses will be in the medium to high rather than the low-price bracket."

Some form of financial assistance for potential buyers was necessary, as well as more land for housebuilding. Sir Peter added: "Availability of funds for purchase will depend on interest rates, the volume of

council house sales and the success of building societies in finding new sources of finance."

Sir Peter also forecast major changes in construction techniques during the 1980s. He predicted widespread adoption of industrialised building methods, with fewer craft-oriented site workers and a greater emphasis on standardised factory design.

He added: "I think that component building could well take off in the next decade. I believe that shortage of skilled labour and the cost of site work will force change."

Sir Peter emphasised that he was not envisaging what he described as the "phoney" upsurge in industrialised methods experienced in the 1960s, but a fundamental shift in techniques which would become a permanent feature of construction activity in the UK.

# £30m to set up ITV 2

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

THE Independent Broadcasting Authority will spend £30m on equipment and buildings for the fourth television channel which will open in November 1982.

The IBA yesterday placed contracts worth more than £18m with Marconi Communications and Pye TWT for 48 sets of high-power transmitters for the channel.

By November 1982, 30 transmitters will allow the fourth channel to open simultaneously in all Independent Television regions. About 80 per cent of the country will be able to receive its programmes.

Lady Plowden, chairman of the IBA, said yesterday the fourth channel would be the first television programme to open in the UK for which most viewers had suitable receivers and aerials.

"They will only have to press the right button, the one that has been left unused for so long."

When the channel opens, the remaining 18 transmitters will be installed at the rate of one a month. Deliveries will begin early in 1981.

To relieve growing tensions about Welsh language pro-

grammes the IBA is giving priority to Wales. All six main stations needed for the new channel will be among the first 30 stations. It is also planned to equip about 80 local relay stations in Wales before 1982.

All Welsh language programmes will then appear on the new channel and ITV programmes will be gradually transferred. This will allow the majority of non-Welsh speakers to watch all-English programmes.

Lady Plowden said it was the first time that any broadcasting authority had awarded such a

large contract. Within a few years the fourth channel would reach 98 per cent of the population, the same as the existing channels.

The IBA and the British Broadcasting Corporation intend to build 70 local relay transmitters each year — in addition to equipping existing relays to carry the new channel. All the fourth channel transmitters will be installed at existing sites. The IBA is working on a project to rationalise control of more than 1,000 transmitters to four main control centres.

# Bureaucracy too costly, Scots told

By James McDonald

DIRECTORS OF services in the Glasgow area should apply to try to reduce staff by more efficient deployment and effective working, Mr. Ian Lyall, president of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, said there yesterday.

"Councils never stop telling us these days about the effect of cuts on senior citizens, children, hospital patients and so on, but they seem powerless to stop their officials adding daily to the weight of bureaucracy," he told the chamber's monthly business affairs conference.

Mr. Lyall said that in the 1978 revaluation the increases in valuations of industrial premises for rates were relatively a good deal higher than for commercial and domestic properties. The assessor no doubt thought that he had already dealt faithfully with the latter in earlier valuations.

As a consequence there was "a rash of appeals." Considered particularly out of line were "the older type of industrial building, with which unfortunately Glasgow is plentifully supplied, and where assessments have been found in excess of the building's capital value."

What really goes to the heart of the matter is the rates which are applied to these valuations, and here we are threatened, according to statements made by councillors, to have added to a rate poundage already perhaps the highest in the country — increases of 40 or even 60 per cent.

# New NHS planning system called for

BY PAUL TAYLOR

THE NATIONAL Health Service planning system should be dismantled and replaced by a development agency charged with helping to redistribute resources in favour of "Cinderella areas" such as community and geriatric care, says a report published yesterday.

The report, commissioned by the independent Outer Circle Policy Unit and prepared by a group of academics from the Hull University Institute for Health Studies, says that the present planning system within the National Health Service has failed to achieve its objectives.

The report, which recommends reversing the emphasis traditionally given to the acute medical sector and diverting it to community-based services for the mentally handicapped, the mentally ill and geriatrics, says the present procedure for approving and monitoring plans has foundered.

This, suggests the report's authors Mr. Philip Tether and Mr. Trevor James, is because of "the power of local providers, in particular those who represent the acute medical sector."

They reject the idea of inspectors to enforce spending

priorities within the NHS. Instead, they suggest that the gulf between the Department of Health and Social Security plans and local services should be bridged by a new "development agency."

The development agency would be given the task of "translating the broad objectives of the service into appropriate local strategies" which would redress the balance between different sections of the health service.

The agency, led by top professionals, would replace the existing Health Advisory Service and would be responsible for negotiating and then monitoring plans reflecting broad objectives with local policy makers.

It would also be concerned with promoting better standards of care particularly for the mentally ill, handicapped, elderly and disabled who have not received their fair share of NHS resources in the past.

A Development Agency for the National Health Service: Institute for Health Studies: £1.25.

# Hong Kong fare hearing set

THE APPLICATIONS by three airlines for cheap fares between Hong Kong and London are to be heard in Hong Kong from November 12 to 16.

Airways and Cathay Pacific Airways have filed for rights to fly the route with the Hong Kong Government as well as the Civil Aviation Authority in London.

# Tax relief on pensions 'exploited'

By Eric Short

A WARNING that the present methods of selling pension schemes to controlling directors may result in retaliatory legislation has come from Mr. David McLeish, managing director of Godwin, a leading firm of employee benefit consultants.

In an article in Accountancy, Mr. McLeish points out that the principal object of a pension scheme is to provide income in retirement. But many consultants in dealing with small self-administered schemes for controlling directors treat the pension as incidental.

Controlling directors are fully apprised of the advantages of such schemes in minimising both their own and their companies' tax bills. The use of the funds for investing back in the company is highlighted. The more esoteric schemes are being pushed to the limit.

But Mr. McLeish feels that, with the Government examining many fringe benefits and their tax treatment, exploiting pension scheme tax reliefs to the extreme may bring about Government action that will not only close the loophole, but seriously affect the future development of bona fide occupational pension schemes in the UK.

Mr. McLeish is also critical of the role of the "pension trustee" in these small self-administered schemes. This role was devised by the Inland Revenue to prevent the agreed winding-up of the pension scheme and the distribution of its assets among potential beneficiaries.

# Taxmen's raids defended in Lords appeal

THE "military style" raids by an army of tax officers on West End company offices, condemned by Lord Denning as excessive use of power, were defended in the House of Lords yesterday.

Much of what Lord Denning said in the Appeal Court last August was "pure imagination," counsel for the Inland Revenue told the Lords.

Lord Denning had said, in ordering the Inland Revenue to return property seized in the raids, that there had been nothing like it since 1783 when the King's Messengers arrested John Wilkes and seized all his books.

In its appeal the Inland Revenue is asking the Lords to uphold the wide powers of search and seizure of documents used in four July raids — on the offices of bankers Rosemount Ltd., A.J.R. Financial Services, an accounting and secretarial company, the Bayswater home of the bank's managing director, Mr. Ronald Plummer, and the home of tax consultant, Mr. Roy Tucker at Nettlesford Place, near Maidstone, Kent.

The Appeal Court had held all were illegal and an excessive use of power. Mr. Robert Gatehouse, QC for the Revenue, told a committee of five Law Lords that although search powers were "distasteful," Parliament considered they were necessary. If the powers were to be used, they must be effective.

"There can be nothing worse

than a search which infuriates the subject and gives the Revenue Officers a thoroughly bad name and then does not achieve results," he said.

Parliament had intended that, if necessary a search carried out by the Revenue when investigating suspected tax fraud should be "very wide," counsel submitted. A search that went off at "half cock" would be a disaster.

For an effective search, it had to be at a time when property would not have to be broken into. That was why the raids were at 7 am. Homeowners would not yet have left for work and would be available to give searching officers access.

A "vast quantity" of documents had admittedly been removed on July 13. If each had to be considered individually before removal, the Revenue officers would have been "camping" on the premises for months, said counsel.

All the original documents had now been returned and the Revenue had undertaken to keep the copies they had taken "in cold storage" pending the outcome of the Lords' appeal. If the appeal failed, the copies would have to be destroyed. If it succeeded, the Revenue would be entitled to ask for the return of the originals.

Mr. Gatehouse said Lord Denning's description of the raids as "a military style operation" was fair comment but much else of what he had said was "pure imagination."

The hearing continues today.

# Call to conserve oil for transport use

BY LISA WOOD

GOVERNMENTS should pursue policies which discourage the consumption of oil in factories, homes and power stations, and conserve the fuel for transport use, it was said yesterday at the Road Haulage Association's annual conference in Brighton.

Mr. John Silbermann, the association's national chairman, said that the Government should consider reversing the taxation policy on fuels so that consumers not in the transport industries were discouraged from using oil.

He said the Government should "publicly state the essential nature of transport in all its forms and therefore the importance of conserving oil for transport use." Nothing was more wrong than taxing road diesel, used by commercial vehicles, at a higher rate than petrol.

Mr. Silbermann said he would like the Armistice inquiry into the road haulage industry to recognise that heavier, 40-tonne lorries would be more economic, less destructive, fewer in number and more fuel-effective than lighter lorries.

In Britain, 90 per cent of goods were transported by road. The inflexibility and limitations of rail goods transport limited the transfer of traffic from road to rail.

The road haulage industry had been investigated at the rate of two inquiries per year. To fit and bring into use tachographs on all affected UK vehicles by December 31, 1981 was too short a time and could well be an impossibility. Mr. Silbermann said that five years was needed and that the Government would have to consider significant exemptions.

# Hong Kong ship tonnage 'equals Merchant Navy's'

BY LISA WOOD

A SMALL number of Hong Kong shipowners now own almost as much tonnage as the whole of the Merchant Navy put together, said Mr. David Ropner, president of the General Council of British Shipping, yesterday.

Mr. Ropner was speaking at the annual dinner in London of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights.

He said that it was vital for British shipping to keep its costs under strict control and retain its efficiency. Otherwise the industry was bound to lose out to lower-cost operators from abroad.

"I fear that we in Britain do not have the same confidence to invest. This is a phenomenon which is not peculiar to shipping. Our problem, like that of all engaged in international trade, is to remain competitive in a world where competition is fierce and growing fiercer every day."

But, Mr. Ropner said, things

were better in shipping than they were a year ago. Freight rates for bulk carriers had improved, laid-up tonnage had gone down, and second-hand prices had risen.

On the whole the UK fleet was fitter, though much slimmer. In the last four years tonnage has been reduced by about 25 per cent.

He warned that if the wage settlement being negotiated with seafarers went too high there would "inevitably" be fewer jobs.

"Investment" would be deflected from shipping. Tonnage would continue to decrease and officers and ratings would either be lost to seafaring, or would have to serve in foreign ships.

"Further, we would tend to lose our attraction as managers of ships registered here from abroad, which provide more opportunities for employment for our seafarers."

# Dockland plans under attack

GOVERNMENT plans for setting up new town style urban development corporations in Merseyside and London docklands come under attack today from the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

A leader in the association's magazine, Municipal Review, complains that "the new town lobby have now convinced Government that development corporation approach might work" as a means of regenerating run down inner city dockland areas. However, the review says "there is absolutely

no evidence to substantiate this view."

The review says that while everyone wants to see the docklands revived, the Government must be shown this can be achieved within the local government structure.

Government plans for setting up urban development corporations are meeting sustained opposition not only from Labour-controlled London boroughs, involved in the present Docklands Joint Committee, but also from Conservative politicians in Liverpool.

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- Another £100 million contract to Balfour Beatty for a high voltage transmission system
- £74 million order to Rolls Royce from Cathay Pacific Airlines for new Boeing 747 and Tristar fleet

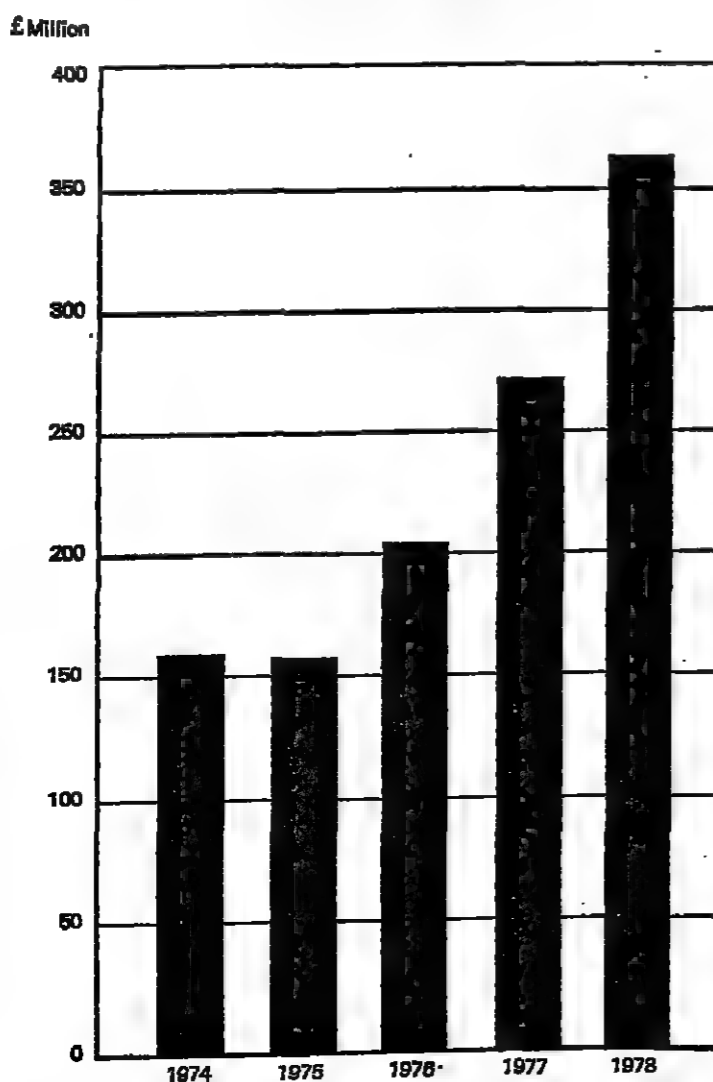
### £45 million contract to Metro Cammel for new rail cars for Hong Kong's railway

Britain also has a high level of participation in most sectors of Hong Kong's economy including banking, shipping, insurance, stockbroking, engineering, trading and British Airways' lucrative Hong Kong-U.K. flight sector. Some of these companies stand to benefit considerably from China's new and dynamic economic modernisation programme. New developments in China could have much relevance for the British economy.

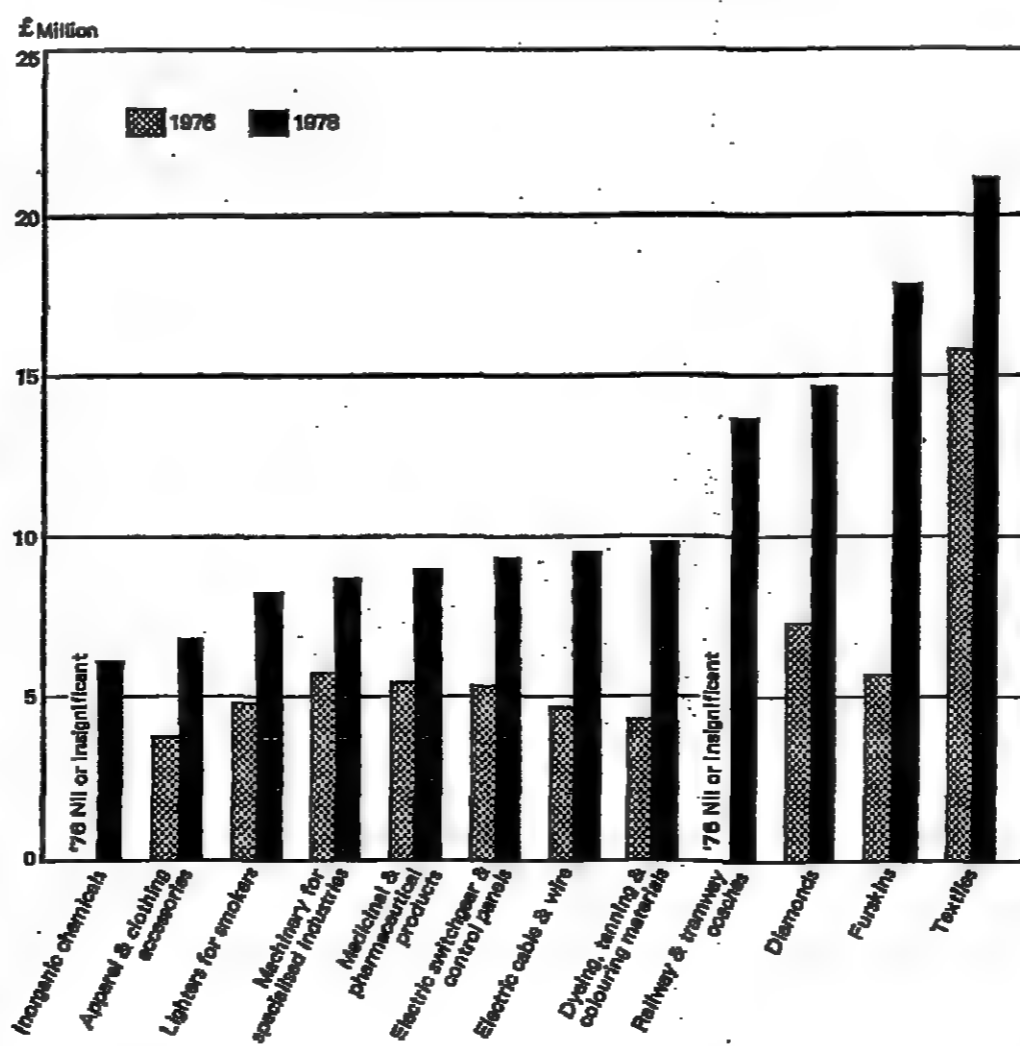
The future looks good and there is much more to do, as Britain still has only slightly more than 5% of Hong Kong's fast growing market. An increase of five percentage points in our market will mean an extra £500 million in export earnings for Britain and there is every possibility that Britain will continue to win a higher share in next few years.

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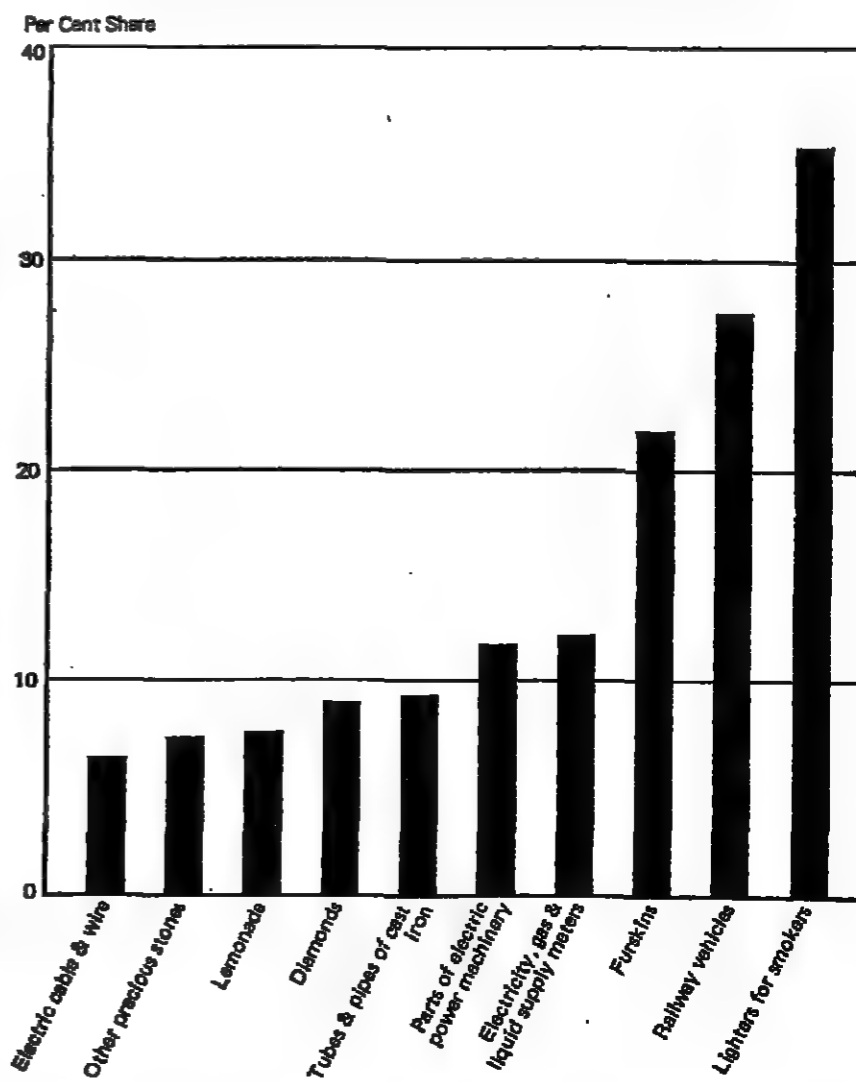
U.K. Exports to Hong Kong 1974 to 1978



U.K. Exports to Hong Kong of Selected Products, 1976 and 1978



Percentage Shares of Hong Kong in Total U.K. Exports of Selected Products, 1978



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## UK NEWS

● NEWS ANALYSIS — LYNTON McLAIN ON AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS

# Local council budgeting plan criticised

BY PAUL TAYLOR

THE CHARTERED Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy has condemned the Government's plans to introduce controls on overall local authority capital spending—in addition to existing controls on borrowing.

The Institute, whose members include finance chiefs in local government, said that to impose new controls on capital spending on top of controls on borrowing seems unreasonable.

However, the proposals are unlikely to be approved by local authorities who rejected a similar set of proposals put forward by the last Government.

The local authorities are expected to reject the proposals for a number of reasons, including the question of duplicating controls. However, they are also expected to argue that it is not practicable to define capital expenditure and perhaps most importantly, that the proposed system would involve the Government in determining how much each local authority should be allowed to spend on capital projects. This would introduce similar difficulties in assessing "need" to those already apparent in the rate support grant system.

Control over the £3.2bn local authorities are expected to spend on capital projects this year is at issue. Behind the Government's move is Treasury concern that the present system of controlling local authority capital spending—through borrowing controls alone—is deficient because of the alternative sources of finance open to local authorities.

The basis of the proposed system, which would be introduced by 1981-82, is five main block allocations covering education, housing, social services, transport, and other

services. There are already separate controls over police, probation and magistrates court capital expenditure.

Each local authority would submit capital spending plans for perhaps three years, and would then be given an allocation expressed in forecast out-turn prices for the next year. Central Government would also give some indication of the figures likely to be approved for following years.

Individual local authorities would be allowed to exceed their block allocation for the year only in special circumstances. Local authorities would, for instance, be allowed to carry over from the previous year, or spend in advance up to 10 per cent of its total allocation. They could also transfer up to 10 per cent out of one block and up to 15 per cent into another block and transfer allocations between local authorities within a county area.

## Supplement

In addition, local authorities would be allowed to supplement their capital spending allocations by using the proceeds of the sale of assets, within certain time limits to boost spending within the same spending area.

Up to 50 per cent of the receipts from the sale of council houses or housing land could also be used to supplement the capital spending allocation. Within each block allocation, and with certain exceptions, for example, "where it is essential to secure the implementation of government policy," local authorities would be allowed to decide their own priorities for spending.

Despite these concessions on flexibility, the local authorities are expected to argue that they are worth little compared to the new and major constraints on capital spending.

The statutory controls over borrowing to fund capital spending are to stay, with the Government linking each spending allocation approval to a borrowing approval for the same amount. This, claim the local authorities, is an unnecessary duplication of controls.

# ICL's vital move in battle for big contracts

THE ENTRY of International Computers Limited (ICL) into the contest to supply equipment for Britain's new air defence network is an important move in the commercial battle for a series of big contracts to modernise NATO's entire ground radar air defence system by the end of the century.

By comparison with NATO's grand plan, the British scheme is modest. Even so, it is expected to cost between £75m and £100m by the late 1980s and is vital for the security of Britain and much of continental Europe.

So far the contest for the lucrative defence contracts for modernising the UK Air Defence Ground Environment—UKADGE—has involved months of intense lobbying behind the scenes by the companies and their governments.

ICL has sided with the French Sintra company, the Dutch Hollandse Signaalapparaten and the U.S. Westinghouse Electric in a determined effort to outflank the competitive efforts of an earlier British-dominated consortium of Marconi, Plessey and Hughes Aircraft of the U.S.

Each consortium is prepared to spend up to £500,000 in preparing tenders for the British Defence Ministry. The ultimate prize at this stage is to win contracts for the entire air defence system, although the radar sites are to be open to tenders from individual companies rather than the two consortia. The consortia hope to win the

air defence data and communications contract.

However, each group may eventually find itself with only a part of the whole contract. There would inevitably be a fusing of the technical and commercial talents of the companies as the demand for compatibility within the completed UKADGE defence network eliminated competing solutions.

Such a fusing of talents, from the establishment of large, international consortia, would be even more evident in the multi-national programme to modernise the whole of NATO's air defence system (NADGE) in the 1980s and 1990s.

The UKADGE plan, which may promote this "growing together" of currently competing interests, has its origins in the changing nature of aerial attack strategies and the rising expense of maintaining Britain's ageing fixed radar sites.

These strategic changes, in turn, are derived from the decision by NATO in the 1960s to move away from the "trip wire" strategy of response to external threats to one of "flexible response." The "trip wire" strategy was based on the military posture of deterrence with instant nuclear retaliation by the alliance if an enemy attacked any member of NATO. Under this flexible strategy Britain had little need to be equipped for conventional air warfare.

This led to the deliberate running down of Britain's fighter aircraft strength and almost

total dependence on large fixed radars. British defence officials decided that only sufficient fighter aircraft and radar would be needed to defend the integrity of UK air space. This called for only a few dozen aircraft.

But the 100 per cent reliance on the nuclear umbrella aided by data from the fixed radars limited Britain's range of options when technical advances in electronics and aircraft design and tactics opened the possibility of flexible and more conventional responses.

In particular, the possibility of aircraft attacking Britain from the west rather than the east and at low level, out of sight of much of the existing radar cover, prompted the call to modernise the existing air defence system.

Much of the existing radar equipment has limited Britain's ability to monitor and defend its air space. The fixed radar sites have equipment that was often especially designed for Britain.

But the greatest problems have been of reliability and the slow speed of response in a system where manual communications between detection centres and control rooms have hampered the efficiency of the air defence network as a whole.

The rundown of the fighter strength is being reversed as Britain builds up a coherent air defence system, intended to be reliable, to respond rapidly to events and not to be constrained

by the use of a small number of fixed sites.

A total of 385 Tornado aircraft is expected to start entering service with the RAF in the 1980s. Of these, 165 will be specially for air defence.

By the time the last squadrons of Tornado air defence fighters enter service the ground equipment should have been updated with equipment made by the winner or winners of the UKADGE contracts. Many of the radar sites will be mobile. They are expected to be dispersed from peacetime sites in times of tension. The new system will give Britain for the first time complete radar cover around its shores.

The new generation of computers to be ordered under the latest contract will analyse data and correlate it with other information, including that from the NATO system, and relay it to control centres instantaneously.

Because the UKADGE system will dovetail with the existing and improved NATO system, NATO has become closely involved with the British proposals. NATO is expected to fund a very high proportion—perhaps 90 per cent—of that part of the contract which NATO regards as essential.

But Britain has decided that it wants the new air defence system to provide even more comprehensive radar coverage than NATO believes is necessary. These extra sites are likely to be paid for entirely

by Britain, with important implications for UK industry.

This is thought to be largely the reason why the radar contracts—as distinct from the data handling and communications contracts—are to be placed with individual companies rather than the two consortia. Britain, under a scheme involving patronage of individual manufacturers, would be free to place the contracts for radar manufacture with national companies, without fear of upsetting her partners in NATO, whose own companies may tender but may get only the work which NATO has agreed and will fund.

Plessey and Marconi Radar Systems are thought to be the only competitors for the extra radar sets. But the Defence Ministry believes their tenders will still have to be highly competitive because they will reflect bids made by the same companies for the work which NATO has approved.

Plessey is understood to be tendering for the radar contracts with ITC Gilligan of the U.S., a company which has already made helicopter portable radars for the U.S. Marines. But Plessey will also be bidding against its two partners, Marconi and Hughes.

Hughes, a leading corporation in defence electronics in the U.S., as already had success in the European programme to modernise air defence ground systems, by winning outright the

contract to update the West German GEADGE system.

Tenders for the data and communications element have to be submitted by February 28. Evaluation will take about seven months and the contract is likely to be awarded towards the end of next year.

This timetable, however, is now running behind schedule as a result of formal protests among NATO partners and in particular France, which takes a full part in NATO talks although its military forces are not necessarily assigned to NATO.

The first deadline was July 26 this year. But there was only one competitor, the Marconi, Plessey, Hughes consortium, which announced its plans in April. Plessey had done the original project definition study for the Defence Ministry and it was felt by members of NATO that British companies had been heavily favoured by the UK Government.

But up to 90 per cent of the money is likely to come from NATO—to help redress an imbalance which resulted from the fact that Britain in the past has contributed more to NATO than it gained in aid—Britain, therefore, had to give way to pressure to postpone the deadline.

A second deadline, November 1, was suggested by Britain but this too was unacceptable to NATO. The new timetable allowing for a second consortium, was agreed only last week.

## Engineers' group calls for more innovation in industry

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

INNOVATION IN industry should be given the same status as safety so that everyone recognised its importance, benefits and costs, says a report by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

The engineers welcomed the Government's study on innovation, published by the Advisory Council on Applied Research and Development (ACARD) earlier this year, as an indication that the Government recognised the benefits of more innovation.

But in its detailed appraisal of the council's report the Institution is critical of some of its conclusions. It is also critical of the

machine tool industry, which "needs to be more flexible in its approach to requests to develop specialised or one-off machine tools."

Exercises in developing new technology would benefit manufacturing industry, would in-

### MORE HOME NEWS

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crease export potential, and would reduce imports of "specials," says the Institution. The engineers disagree with a proposal that grants to develop manufacturing tech-

nology should be administered by the Science Research Council.

They say the grants should be channelled throughout the research requirements boards of the Department of Industry. The boards should also be used to liaise with industry in developing technical standards, and not the Sector Working Parties.

The engineers also criticise references by ACARD to "manufacturing sciences," saying they prefer the unequivocal term "production engineering."

Industrial Innovation: A submission to the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1.

## Car insurance premiums up 9.2% in 5 months

By Eric Short

MOTOR insurance premiums have jumped 9.2 per cent over the past five months, according to the latest value of the Quoted Motor Index. The October index value stood at 163.7, against a May value of 154.5, with this rise reflecting the recent large number of motor premium increases announced by many insurance companies.

Quoted Insurance Services, which publishes the index, provides a comprehensive monitoring service to insurance brokers of motor and life assurance premium rates.

Quoted's analysis by type of car over the period showed that motor premiums for the 1593 cc Ford Cortina leaped by 12.8 per cent.

## Mersey estuary bird deaths investigated

BY LEA WOOD

MORE THAN 1,500 birds have died in the Mersey estuary in the past three weeks—but the cause of death remains a mystery.

The birds, which include seagulls, a heron, teal and curlews, have all been found either dead or dying. It has been suggested that lead poisoning could be responsible, but the North West Water Authority, which is leading an investigation into the deaths, said at the weekend that there was no conclusive evidence yet.

The authority said that the University of Liverpool and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods had isolated lead in the birds but the levels were considered to be too low to cause death. The authority regularly moni-

tors sediment in the estuary. Lead levels have remained steady since 1974, according to annual analyses. A special check is to be carried out to establish whether there has been an unusual alteration in the level since May, when they were last examined.

Major industrial discharges and spillages are all being investigated. Among Merseyside's major industries are the Ellesmere Port oil refineries, and petrochemical and chemical plants both banks of the river. Asked if any dead fish had been seen in the estuary, a water authority spokesman said: "There are not many fish in the Mersey." In the words of the Liverpool expression: "The quality of Mersey is not strained."

# FROM ATV, 'YEAR ZERO' TONIGHT AT 9-00 ON ITV. THEY SAID IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN. BUT IT HAS.

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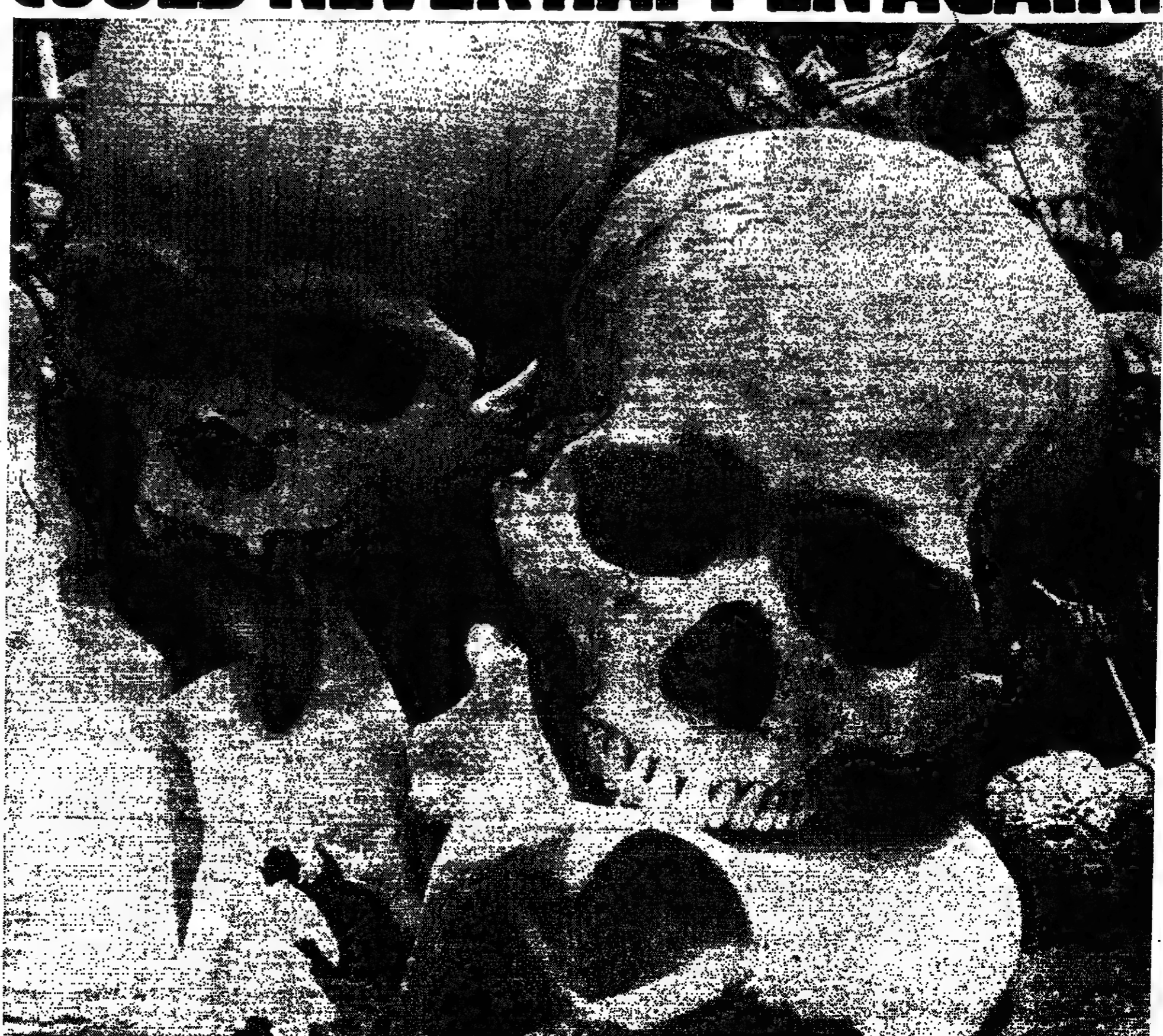
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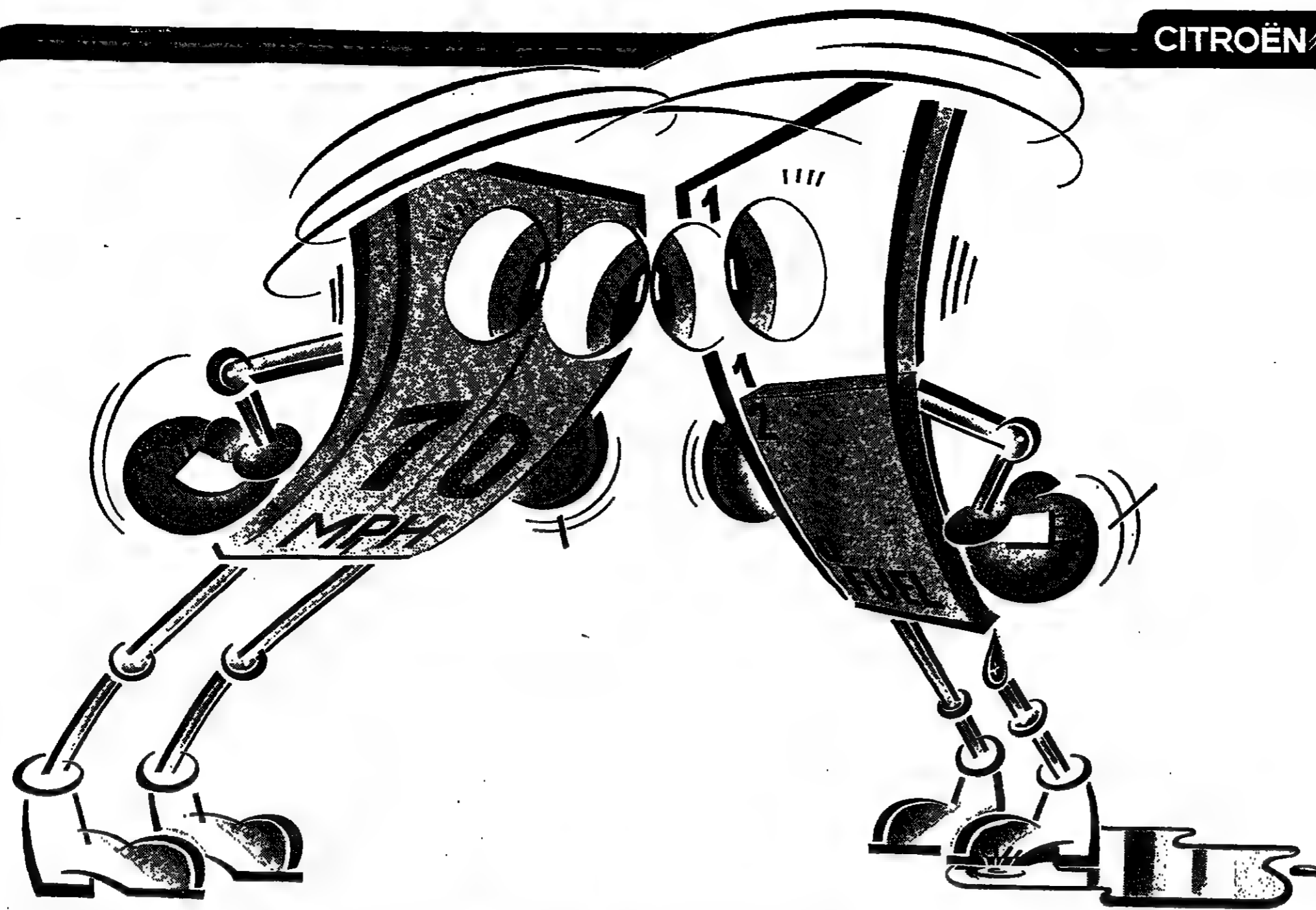
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CITROËN



## CITROËN ANNOUNCE A TRUCE BETWEEN THE SPEEDOMETER AND THE FUEL GAUGE.

High performance and low fuel consumption have always been mutually incompatible in the internal combustion engine.

But even in an energy-conscious world, there are still occasions when you need to eat up the miles.

Fortunately, Citroen have resolved this dilemma with a brand new generation of cars whose very lively performance is matched by equally outstanding economy: the new Reflex and Athena.

Their powerful new 2-litre overhead camshaft engine delivers effortless acceleration up to 109 mph, and outperforms virtually all of its competitors.

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The Reflex gives 35.8 mpg at a constant 56 mph, 29.1 mpg at a constant 75 mph, and 23.5 mpg in the urban test. Acceleration and fuel consumption in the 5-speed Athena is even better (39.8 mpg at a constant 56 mph).

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And once you get behind the wheel, you'll soon discover that unique feel which keeps Citroen so far ahead in comfort, driving pleasure and safety.

The VariPower steering makes parking and manoeuvring finger-tip easy. And yet it becomes progressively firmer with speed; and combined with front-wheel drive, ensures rock-solid roadholding and handling.

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## UK NEWS—LABOUR

# Union may sue port authority

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR STAFF

THE IRON AND STEEL Trades Confederation, one of the unions at the centre of the Hunterston ore terminal demarcation dispute, is considering legal action against the Clyde Port Authority to recover earnings lost by its members during the dispute.

The union, largest in the steel industry, said yesterday that failure to operate the £100m terminal was the fault of the authority, and had resulted in a loss of earnings to ISTC members.

Because of this the union was "actively investigating" what remedies were available

through the courts. Mr. Bill Sims, ISTC general secretary, confirmed that the union had instructed its solicitors to examine the legal position, and that it was ready "if necessary" to sue the authority.

He said: "The authority has a contract to bring steel in. It is not doing that, and our members are losing money as a result."

A spokesman for the authority said that the union's possible move seemed another diversion from the central issue of the demarcation dispute. Neither

the ISTC nor the Transport and General Workers' Union, the other union involved, was in dispute with the authority.

The two unions are arguing over who should do the 60 new jobs at the terminal. The TUC will make a fresh attempt on Saturday to resolve the dispute, though Mr. Sims said yesterday that if "use of force as opposed to use of argument" prevailed.

The British Steel Corporation announced last week that it was starting legal proceedings against the authority over non-operation of the terminal.

● The Prime Minister in what

was taken to be a reference to the Hunterston dispute, emphasised to Welsh union leaders the importance of ensuring that investment in the steel industry was put to work.

again a settlement would be unlikely.

● Shop stewards at Ravenscraig steel works in Scotland, where the corporation has said it will temporarily suspend production if the Hunterston dispute is not settled, said yesterday that they would consider a work-in if British Steel went ahead with its plans.

## Warning by Gormley on Government intervention

MR. JOE GORMLEY, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday warned the Government not to apply behind the scenes pressure on the National Coal Board in this year's pay negotiations.

He told a meeting of the Foreign Press Association in London, that it would be "damning impossible" to negotiate for a figure that did not cover the rise in the cost of living. The negotiations should ensure miners stayed at the top of the industrial wages league.

The NCB is due to give its first reply to the NUM claim tomorrow. The claim submitted involves rises of up to 65 per cent. Increases for the maximum rates for face workers range from £84.95 to £140, for other underground workers from £78.50 to £126 and for non-craftsmen surface workers from £72.50 to £100.50.

### Comparisons

Mr. Gormley said nobody could say a coalface worker was not worth £140 a week, particularly in the light of some other settlements "in other areas that are not as important in my opinion to the economy as the coal industry is going to be."

Times printworkers had won £240 a week for work not comparable to the miners. "I hope the Government will realise the importance of coal miners in the economy," he said.

"There will be a settlement, but whether it is a peaceful settlement or a settlement as a result of problems I don't know."

## Teachers in colleges 'need 28% more'

By Michael Dixon

COLLEGE TEACHERS—there are about 80,000—need a 28 per cent average pay increase to restore their salaries to the values of five years ago, according to evidence submitted to the Comparability Commission by the unions' side of the teachers' negotiating committee.

The unions claim that lecturers in further education colleges have fallen between 15 and 45 per cent behind the salary relativities established for them by the Houghton Committee in 1974.

In particular, the pay of college teachers responsible for degree-level studies has been rapidly outstripped by the pay of university lecturers.

## TR7 output halted

A STRIKE by 500 workers at the Rover Triumph plant at Canley in the Midlands has halted production of the TR7 sports car and forced 4,000 lay-offs.

## Pay rises must be below rate of inflation says Heseltine

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT trade union leaders were told by Mr. Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, yesterday that there was no question of the Government meeting the cost of pay rises at the current inflation rate of nearly 17 per cent.

He gave no hint of the inflation assumption that the Government has made for the 1980-81 public services cash limit, which will be announced on November 20 with the rate-support grant. Treasury forecasts of a 13 per cent inflation rate by the third quarter of next year suggest that the rate-support grant inflation figure will be no more than that.

The Government could pitch the pay figure even lower, because in single figures, because of its worry that any figure will

be seen by the unions as a minimum. To prevent the huge increase in rates that would follow pay settlements in double figures, local authorities might be cushioned in other ways.

Mr. Heseltine told members of the TUC Local Government Committee that once the cash limit was fixed there would be "no coming back for more."

Pay rises in excess would have to be met out of the rates or out of job losses.

For the Government to entertain trade union demands for at least a 17 per cent pay rise would be "disaster road." Afterwards he said that 4 per cent of the current RPI figure was a one-off rise due to the Budget tax changes.

Mr. Alan Fisher, chairman of the TUC committee, said: "In our view the Government will have to meet the increase in the cost of living, which is likely to be around 17 per cent."

He warned that unless the full cost of the Clegg Commission awards for public service workers was met, authorities might cut their budgets by up to 10 per cent.

Negotiations on behalf of local authority and health service manual workers are getting under way.

The councils will not be able to work out their bargaining strategy this year until the rate-support grant has been announced.

The unions claim a "substantial" increase and a shorter working week.

## Clothing industry aid urged

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

UNION LEADERS yesterday told Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, that they were concerned about prospects for the clothing industries.

The TUC textile, clothing and footwear industries committee presented a memorandum on the future of the industry to Sir Keith and Mr. John Nott, Trade Secretary.

The committee said that in the past six months there was a flood of redundancy notices in the clothing and related

industries. One firm alone had announced the loss of 5,000 jobs. It stressed the need for a continuing Government role in modernisation of the industries.

Trade and industrial policy should be integrated with the renewal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement at the end of 1981, the committee said. It called for action against imports from the U.S. based on what it believes to be artificially cheap energy and feedstocks, and for opposition to EEC proposals to

allow "outward processed" imports.

The Ministers agreed that the position regarding U.S. imports was serious and said they believed the EEC would be able to persuade the U.S. Government that this was presenting Europe with a special problem.

The union officials expressed concern that future Government investment and regional assistance plans might be inadequate. The Ministers said these funding arrangements would be kept under review.

## Firemen expect 20.45% rise

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

BRITAIN'S 36,000 firemen have asked employers for a 20.45 per cent increase under the final stage of a 1978 peace formula designed to bring their wages in line with skilled manual workers.

The claim would increase basic rates for a qualified fireman with four years' service from £88.30 to £106.36 a week. It will be presented to the employers' side of the Fire Services National Joint Council on Thursday.

Mr. Richard Foggie, assistant general secretary of the Fire

Brigades' Union, said he expected the employers to endorse the union's claim. The settlement date was November 7 and formed the third stage of the 1978 settlement after the firemen's nine-week long strike.

The settlement formula was designed to link firemen to the top 25 per cent of the earnings league for skilled manual workers.

● The FBU said yesterday that London's fire services were inadequate because of cuts. As a result, neighbouring services have had to be called in, denud-

ing their own areas of some fire cover.

Replying to the Greater London Council's discussion paper on the future development of the London Fire Brigade, the union said that many appliances could not be used because they were defective. It is sceptical over the GLC's claim of a reserve fleet of 81 fire appliances and suggests the council should rescind its decision in April to reduce the agreed 1974 levels of cover by 41 appliances.

## Postal union may be restructured

THE Union of Post Office Workers, the last Post Office union, is to consider altering its structure in response to Government proposals to split the Post Office into two separate corporations.

A meeting of the UPW national executive council yesterday discussed the possibilities of restructuring and its effects on members. A rules

revision conference is to be held in January.

The 200,000 strong UPW has been opposed for the last three years to separating postal services from telecommunications. It fears that jobs will be threatened and that it would have little influence over telecommunications development. UPW members would be in the postal services which is likely to make a loss.

The Government announced in September its plan to change the Post Office structure which may not be completed until late next year or 1981.

The plan has considerable implications for the Post Office two-year worker-director experiment which ends this year. The UPW has two of the seven worker-director seats on the board.

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## UK NEWS—PARLIAMENT and POLITICS

## Tougher limits on Brent gas flaring

BY IVOR OWEN

THERE WERE protests from both sides of the Commons yesterday when it was disclosed that so far this year gas from the North Sea has been "flared" at an average daily rate of 668m cubic feet.

This figure—equal to about 15 per cent of the total gas supplied annually by the British Gas Corporation—was revealed by Mr. Hamish Gray, Minister of State for Energy, when he announced new restrictions on flaring in the Brent Field.

He explained that this cut-back, which will continue in the Brent Field for the next three months, would restrict oil production by up to 1m tonnes.

The Minister's disclosure—in oil equivalent terms, 668m cubic feet of gas per day represents 7.5 per cent of UK production in the first eight months of this year—was described by Mr. David Penhaligon (Lab., Thurrock) as "a scandal beyond description."

Mr. Gordon Wilson (SNP, Dundee E.), who strongly welcomed the restriction on flaring announced by the Minister, claimed that something like

BRITAIN'S FUEL supplies this winter should be adequate, "given an average winter and no external interruptions in production or supply," said Mr. John Moore, Energy Under-Secretary.

Ministers foresaw no general difficulties but he repeated the call for the "maximum restraint" in energy consumption.

Mr. Joe Ashton, Opposition energy spokesman, warned that although supplies

might be adequate now, there was no guarantee that they might "not suddenly dry up by the first week in December before the OPEC meeting."

If this was the case, warned Mr. Ashton, it would once again lead to the situation where the "people sitting on stocks can make a killing." Mr. Moore retorted that it served as a useful purpose to "encourage and increase fear" about fuel supplies.

argued that it would be preferable to keep more oil under the North Sea than to use it immediately to boost foreign earnings to enable sterling to become a petrocurrency. This would have disadvantages for British exports, he said.

Dr. David Owen, Labour's shadow Energy Minister, called on the Government to ensure that oil companies and gas are not allowed to make undue profits out of petrol.

He protested that price increases made in the summer had been "exorbitant" and that many motorists had been subjected to a rip-off.

Dr. Owen drew attention to the different price levels in EEC countries, particularly the fact that the cost of two-star petrol (before tax) was 46p per gallon in Italy compared with 63.5p in the UK.

Mr. David Howell, the Energy Secretary, argued that it was pump prices on the garage forecourt which really mattered. At the moment, motorists still paid a lower price for petrol in Britain than almost anywhere else in Europe.



CUTS CONFERENCE: Stuart Holland (left), John Tilley and Ted Knight.

## Move to discover who controls casinos

BY JOHN HUNT, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT is to seek changes in the law to enable the Gaming Board to penetrate the "corporate veil" surrounding gaming casinos, Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, told the Commons yesterday.

This would help the board to find out who really controls the casinos and, if necessary, to take steps to exclude criminals and other undesirable.

It cannot, unfortunately, be said that the gambling scene in this country is now free from all criminal elements," he explained. "The increasingly international nature of the industry adds to the risk."

Gaming, said Mr. Whitelaw, was the most serious aspect of the gambling business.

"It is here that the risks of invasion of the gambling scene by criminals is probably the greatest."

The Home Secretary was speaking in a debate on the mammoth report of the Royal Commission on Gambling, which reported in July 1978 with 303 recommendations.

In relation to gaming, he said that some recommendations of the Commission should be put into effect as soon as the law can be amended.

Casinos should be required to provide the Gaming Board with audited accounts at regular intervals and this should also apply to bingo clubs.

In addition, the board should be notified of changes in control of companies operating gaming establishments.

Mr. Whitelaw found it difficult, however, to accept the Commission's suggestion for the revocation of the regulations which specify the areas where casinos are permitted to operate.

"I doubt whether it would be right to allow any significant addition to the number of

## Run of bad luck...

BY JOHN HUNT

MR. MERLYN REES, Shadow Home Secretary (right), has been putting in some intensive homework for last night's debate on gambling.

For several weeks past, he has been playing the fruit machines along the M1 and M4 motorways.

Reporting his findings to the House, he commented: "I can confirm that the law of averages does not work."

Changing his venue, he went to a working men's club in London.

Facing yet another run of bad luck he decided to quit and handed his final 10p to one of the members.

"He put it in and got the lot," said Mr. Rees glumly. "Unfortunately, by that time I was out through the door."

But according to Mr. Bob Mellish (Lab., Bermondsey) the basic principle is very simple.

"You just hope that everyone in front of you has lost and that you are the bloke who is going to win."



casinos already operating in this country," he declared.

On most of the other aspects of the Commission's report Mr. Whitelaw made it clear that the Government still had an open mind.

Any legislation, on the generality of the report was some way off, he hinted.

He emphasised that public expenditure constraints applied in this as in other fields.

"Some direct supervision and monitoring of gambling activities by the central Government is obviously needed. But the resources for this, as for other Government functions, are and must be limited."

On these grounds, he turned down the Commission's proposal that the Home Office should become a central agency actively concerned with the supervision of all forms of gambling.

He also rejected the suggestion that his department

should fund a gambling research unit to monitor and study the incidence, sociology and psychology of gambling.

His department was, however, preparing a new publication to collate and collect statistical information about the various forms of gambling.

Other points in the Home Secretary's speech—

**Lotteries**

New regulations are now being worked out for tighter control of local lotteries. He agreed with the Commission's call for prevention of commercial exploitation, improved control of lotteries and lottery tickets.

Although there was no prospect of legislating on this during the present session, his department had sent out a consultative document containing proposals for new regulations which would go some way to

achieve the objectives of the Commission.

The regulations would ensure that tickets and advertisements did not make it seem that lotteries were being promoted by commercial firms rather than local authorities, charities or cultural bodies.

Nevertheless, he rejected the Commission's proposal that societies and local authorities should be prohibited from employing agents to run the lotteries.

The Government, said Mr. Whitelaw, had reached no conclusion on the proposal for a national lottery.

But he had doubts about the suggestion for a national lotteries board of 10 members.

He saw this as the establishment of another quango.

The Commission had been highly critical of local lotteries, alleging wholesale disregard of the law and "a good deal of

plain dishonesty."

The Home Secretary argued that the situation had now changed for the better and that some of the Commission's 65 recommendations for dealing with it were "unnecessary and impracticable."

**Horse racing**

Mr. Whitelaw did not envisage any major changes in the Horse-race Betting Levy.

He knew that the Levy Board was very concerned about the large-scale avoidance of the levy but he saw no prospect of introducing amending legislation this session to put the matter right.

**Bookmaking and betting shops**

When there was a chance to legislate there would have to be minor changes in the law relating to the procedure for obtaining bookmakers' permits and the signs in and outside betting shops.

**Gaming machines**

The Home Secretary found many of the proposals of the Commission acceptable but he was against the recommendation that police and local authorities should have power to enter amusement arcades at any time.

This needed further thought. He was very sceptical about the suggestion of a law making it mandatory for a player to know the true rate of return of a gaming machine and of a proposal that the rate should be displayed on the machine.

He was also opposed to the recommendation that all jackpot machines should contain a meter recording information and that these should be examined by inspectors from the Gaming Board.

## Walker rules out lamb ban retaliation

RETALIATION against France's decision to ban imports of UK sheep meat was ruled out last night by Mr. Peter Walker, Agriculture Minister.

"I do not believe that retaliatory action by the UK is the right response if France continues to ignore the judgment of the European Court," he said in a written answer.

"The European Commission is responsible for upholding the treaties of the European Communities and I am pressing the Agriculture Commissioner to take immediate action with the French Government to ensure that the judgment of the European Court is respected."

Mr. Walker said he had asked the French Minister of Agriculture whether he intended permanently to allow free access to the French market—free of all levies and restrictions—of imports of UK sheep meat.

"From the information I have received, it appears that this is not the case and if so, the Community remains in a situation of crisis."

**REFUGEE CUTBACK:** Britain is to stop taking in large numbers of refugees from Latin America, William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The special programme for Latin America, introduced in 1973 following events in Chile, had resulted in the admission of more than 3,000 refugees. The number of applicants had dropped this year and pressure had grown to accept refugees from other countries, particularly Vietnam. The Latin America programme was therefore to be closed.

## Delay in publishing education proposals

A FORTY-NINE minute hold up in the operation of the Whitehall machine led yesterday to uproar in the Commons and charges against the Government of irresponsibility, arrogance and incompetence.

The crucial delay was in the publication of the Government's controversial Education Bill.

At 12.19 pm last Friday, the House finished its business and those MPs still about the place went home—some four hours earlier than expected.

At 1 pm, copies of the Bill, which covers vital issues like school meals and transport and State assistance for places at private schools, arrived at the Commons.

Parliamentary custom dictates that MPs should have two full weekends to ponder a major Bill between its publication and its second reading debate.

The Government wants the second reading of its Education Bill next Monday, clearly not obeying the tradition resulting in Opposition fury.

"The Government is behaving in an irresponsible and cavalier manner, disregarding the Opposition and the established conventions of the House," bellowed Neil Kinnock, shadow Education Secretary.

How could MPs do their job properly if they received Bills at such short notice? "Parliamentary custom is scrupulously conformed to and not twisted to suit the Government,"

Norman St. John Stevas, Commons leader, explained that a handful of copies were available on Friday morning and the rest arrived shortly after the House rose.

Mr. Jim Marshall (Lab., Leicester S.), claimed that Government officials had tried to delay the 6.30 pm small van from the Commons.

## Lambeth outlines cuts campaign

By Paul Taylor

THE LONDON borough of Lambeth is emerging as the Labour-controlled authority which will spearhead the campaign against the cuts in local authority spending.

At a Commons meeting yesterday, Mr. Ted Knight, council leader, outlined plans for a campaign against the Government's requests for cuts in local government spending—totaling £300m this year—which will bring together trade unions in the public services sector and other Labour-controlled local authorities.

Lambeth itself has refused to implement cuts of more than £3.5m in the current year and Mr. Knight warned that further reductions in the level of rate support grant to the inner city borough could result in rate rises of up to 50 per cent next year.

The council backed by local trade unionists and other Labour councils, is planning a march on the Commons on November 7.

Council leaders see this as the start of a concerted campaign within the Labour movement against the cuts in public spending—including those in the health service.

The march has the support of the TUC and local Labour MPs.

Mr. Knight said that the Lambeth council—one of the seven inner city partnership areas—was not prepared to see council services cut because of Government spending policy.

Mr. Bill Shelton, Conservative MP for Lambeth, Streatham, who also attended the meeting, said he believed Lambeth should be making the cuts.

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## THE JOBS COLUMN

## Plain need for international understanding

BY MICHAEL DIXON

TODAY'S COLUMN was brought close to a dead stop by headhunter Richard Robinson of the Otteridge consultancy. Having blithely told me that he urgently needed to fill a job importantly concerned with "150 TCNs/AFSEs," he disappeared beyond call.

Dumbfounded by the acronym, I ferreted out the FT's sparsely populated Sunday-night offices in search of enlightenment; but in vain. Telephone calls to external acquaintances served merely to spread the bewilderment. Even the most erudite of my colleagues, when asked did he know what TCNs/AFSEs were, could reply only: "Not really." I assured him that if ever I managed to find out, I would let him know.

Fortunately at daybreak (morning-paper journalists' time) yesterday, Mr. Robinson was apprehended in his office. He seemed surprised that the acronym should give a moment's pause to the Jobs Column and its readers. He had been most impressed by the wide ranging knowledge of those who had responded to his job-offer reported in this space last June and...

"But what about the 150 TCNs/AFSEs?" I inquired pointedly.

Well they would be highly important to the international personnel specialist Richard Robinson was seeking, he

said, because they contributed mightily to the profits of the employing group—an international leisure-clothing business. But in another way they were only a small part of the job because they were outnumbered by some 7,000 direct workers even in the group's Eastern Hemisphere division based in Brussels where, of course, the recruit would largely work.

By this time I was beginning to wish that I had taken up some more simple career such as economic forecasting. "But I mean: what the devil are TCNs/AFSEs?" I stammered. And he finally spelled them out.

A TCN is a "third country national": for example, a German manager employed by a United States company to work in France. An AFSE is an "American foreign service employee" such as might be sent out by the same company to work in Greece.

Mr. Robinson further explained that neither kind is precisely an expatriate. This is because an "expatriate" is, strictly speaking, someone who goes away to work in one overseas country, whereas TCNs/AFSEs are employed to be transferable between various foreign lands. (We live and learn, although I am not always convinced that it is worthwhile.)

Even so, the people who will henceforth be known in this

column as transferable expatriates will certainly be an important concern of the manager needed to take charge of pay, perks and the like throughout the leisure-wear group's 37 business operations in 17 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Suppose, for instance, that the aforesaid German manager was to be transferred from France to Italy, and the aforesaid American executive from Greece to North Africa. The newcomer must know, or be able to find out quickly, how best to adjust the two managers' salaries and benefits so that each was treated fairly.

Suppose, too, that a plant in Spain was facing 15 per cent inflation. The recruit would have to advise the plant's management whether it ought to compensate its direct workers with an automatic increase, or to negotiate on the issue.

Another typical problem might be to set up a programme of job-evaluation covering the Eastern Hemisphere division's operations, and set it up so as to ensure that the Brussels headquarters could subsequently make coherent sense of the results.

Mr. Robinson seems convinced that people with practical experience of solving such problems are among the Jobs Column's regular readership. Candidates could well already

be employed in similar work in Continental Europe, but they could equally be in the UK or the U.S. Fluency in the main European languages would be an advantage, but it is not essential.

Since the division's British personnel director to whom the new compensation and benefits manager will be responsible—is 35 years old, candidates should preferably be aged 28 to 32.

As if the acronym were not enough, Richard Robinson also mystified me somewhat on the matter of salary. This, according to his original, hastily written message, was for negotiation "around 1.25 Belgian Francs." Was this sum to be paid weekly or monthly? I asked during our telephone conversation yesterday.

It turned out that the bursary typist had missed out the letter "m" after the 1.25. So the newcomer will really be paid about a million and a quarter francs, which I gather puts this job in the £20,000 arena. Relocation, removal and temporary accommodation expenses will be paid. Perks are of the normal Continental-executive variety.

Readers interested should send brief details of their relevant experience to Mr. Robinson at Otteridge and Co. 199 Knightsbridge, London, SW7; telex 24788. Inquiries may be

telephoned to him at 01-589 1444. Since he may not name the client, he guarantees to abide by any applicant's request not to be identified to the employer until specific permission is given. The same applies to the headhunter dealing with the following pair of jobs.

## Money mentor

The first is with a U.S.-owned bank's subsidiary which specialises in advising clients, whether organisations or individuals, in various countries on what best to do with their surplus funds.

The person being sought by John Williams of the Whitehead consultancy will be concerned with advising the clientele in the oil-producing Middle East. But as well as needing particular understanding of that area's currencies and economic climate, candidates will require a professional's appreciation of economic trends generally throughout the world.

Based in London, and responsible to the bank's European-region vice-president for foreign exchange, the newcomer will spend about two to three months each year in the Middle East. Provided that they are culturally transferable to work in this way, candidates could currently be working virtually anywhere.

Mr. Williams sees the ideal

candidate as someone already in a comparable role, with strong experience of practically directed economic forecasting and much practice at making and maintaining high-level international contacts.

An appropriate graduate-level qualification is desired. Fluency in Arabic would help, but is not necessary.

All this seems a lot to expect for someone in the preferred 28-32 age range. So while Mr. Williams specifies the salary bracket as £14,000 to £16,000, I personally feel that the bank might need to go higher. Usual, City-type perks.

He is also seeking someone aged 50 to 55 who has successfully managed a bigish oil-exploration or production concern, to work in Brasilia as adviser to a State-owned oil corporation.

Familiarity with all aspects of that kind of business—both offshore and onshore and including dealings with senior members of Governments, contractors, and so on—is required.

Pay £25,000 to £30,000 tax free. Perks include generous living and accommodation allowances.

John Williams would prefer initial inquiries about either job to be telephoned to him at 01-580 0191. Written outlines of relevant careers may be sent to him at Whitehead Technical Services, 21 Wigmore Street, London W1R 9LA; Telex 27789.

## Opportunity in Spain

Major U.S. multinational bank for its Spanish operation, based in Madrid, is looking for an

EXPERIENCED FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALER

- Full command of Spanish and English.
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- Personal contacts in the Spanish financial markets and good knowledge of Bank of Spain's regulations.

- Salary commensurate with ability.

- All applications will be treated with strictest confidentiality.

- Send résumé with photograph to Mr. Paulagua, Nuñez de Balboa 70—1<sup>o</sup> Madrid 6, Spain.

## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

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A large and expanding property investment and development group with overseas interests is seeking a qualified accountant, preferably with commercial experience. The successful applicant will report to the Chief Accountant and will be responsible for the preparation of accounts and the provision of financial information, budgets and forecasts. A knowledge of computers would be useful. Candidates should have the ability to supervise and organise the work of a department and to assume a more demanding role in the future.

Salary will be negotiable in the region of £10,000 according to experience and benefits include life assurance and contributory pension scheme, BUPA, four weeks' holiday and modern office accommodation.

Write (in strict confidence) enclosing a detailed c.v. to:

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E. Sutton, Ref: 17086/FT.

Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form to:

LONDON: 01-734 6852, Sutherland House, 5/6 Argyll Street, W1E 6EZ.

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For the full text of the advertisements please see the Financial Times of that date or telephone Sally Stanley on 01-248 5597

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To take charge of day-to-day accounts, budgeting and forecasting. The right applicant will have the opportunity to develop with this relatively small company, as well as a responsible and rewarding job from the outset. Automation of company book-keeping is currently in hand and Data Processing knowledge would be helpful. Salary negotiable, but in the region of £8,000. Reply in confidence to:

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The Head Office of a major public company located in the West Midlands and with factories operating throughout England and overseas, requires a Financial Accountant. The position is best suited to a recently-qualified Chartered Accountant who is looking for his/her first commercial position.

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The London Branch of a leading West German Bank is seeking a Chartered Accountant with Bank Audit experience (with particular emphasis on Foreign Exchange Accounting) in order to develop the branch's Management accounting system and operational procedures.

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## KEY POSTS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

On the retirement of the present Town Clerk and Chief Executive (21 May 1980), his duties are to be assigned to two separate key posts. The Council now wishes to appoint the following:

## Chief Executive

£16,146 - £16,992

who, freed from the departmental responsibilities imposed by the statutory functions of Town Clerk, will be able to concentrate on leading policy implementation, and co-ordinating the work of all Council departments.

Although no specific academic or professional qualification is required, applicants for this key Local Government post must be able to demonstrate considerable and extensive administrative experience and attainments, and to possess a thorough practical knowledge of local government or public administration.

Salary (which is currently under review): £16,146, rising by three increments to £16,992, and subject to the terms and conditions of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities. A car allowance is also payable.

## Director of Law and Administration

£13,401 - £14,247

to assume the statutory functions of Town Clerk (including election duties), together with legal and other administrative duties.

Applicants must be Solicitors with extensive knowledge of local government law and administration.

Salary (which is currently under review): £13,401, rising by three increments to £14,247, and subject to the terms and conditions of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities. A car allowance is also payable.

Further information concerning these posts can be obtained from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley (tel. no. 01-903 1400, extn. 8289). Applications, which must be returned to the same address by 26 November 1979, should include a CV, and an indication as to what positive contribution the applicant could offer to Brent.

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We require an active and experienced operations manager to fill this new senior appointment. The manager will be responsible for planning, costing and operating a specialised summer tour programme and must have a good knowledge of charter as well as scheduled air traffic.

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London based affiliate of offshore oil company seeks an executive with engineering qualifications and experience of petroleum industry work. Applicant must be able to communicate with top level oil industry technical and sales personnel and evaluate client production needs. The position will be based in London but must be prepared to travel extensively in Europe and the East. Salary and benefits offered are commensurate with the best of competitive recruiting.

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26 The New Town Hall, Victoria St., W8.  
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# Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHÖETERS

## EDUCATION

### Makes it easier to find the right word

BRAINBANK is described as a "pocket companion following on from calculators and mini TVs."

It is a learning aid, phrase book and translator for foreign languages; a library of general knowledge, education and entertainment topics; and a personal filing system combined.

The basis of the Brainbank is a series of plug-in interchangeable memory cells. These provide this hand-held, microprocessor-based machine with an extensive store of information. For students, travelling businessmen and holidaymakers, it can work as a learning laboratory for foreign languages with immediate word to word translation of up to three languages at a time.

Each language cell holds 1,200 of the most frequently used words which can be stored both in alphabetical order and by groups of up to 30 in categories such as travelling, clothing, and food.

Operation is via an A-Z keyboard, plus numerals and punctuation. The unit is also programmed with 26 complete and 55 partial phrases which can be added to give full sentences, for example: "May I introduce..." "I'd like to say..." Thus a degree of instantaneous translation is available at the touch of a key with foreign equivalent being displayed in bright green letters on a 16 character screen which can be rotated at different speeds to assist comprehension.

Brainbank can correct spelling errors, identify and explain words with double meanings (eg watch-clock, watch-see) and has a "phonetic" cell to aid pronunciation.

Currently six language cells are on sale—English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, with Japanese and Arabic due in the next few weeks. All the remaining major languages will be available during the next four months.

Recent technology advances have enabled the storage capacity of new cells to be dramatically increased as much as eight-fold, to 9,600 words.

Updated language cells will become available during the next six months.

As an information centre, the unit has a built-in metric conversion facility, while memory cells containing comprehensive details on diet and nutrition programmes, first aid, taxation and a thesaurus are already complete.

Price is now £150 and further details are available from the Ring Group, Gelderd Road, Leeds LS12 6NB. 0532 632421.

## REFRIGERATION

### Packaged waters chillers

FOUR NEW Westinghouse packaged water chillers with capacities by 80 to 160 tons refrigeration have been introduced by Heat-Frig.

These new air-cooled units are designed for commercial and industrial air conditioning applications where no condensing water is available and external installation is required. Designated PN 110-200, the chillers will operate in any climatic condition, even with below freezing ambient temperatures.

Design is such that only the unit length varies with capacity. Heat-Frig delivers each PN unit to site as a complete package—only power and water connections to the evaporator are required. Compressor starters are ready assembled in the control panel to simplify electrical connections.

Economy of operation is vital in today's energy conscious world and each PN chiller incorporates multiple compressors, which allow capacity reduction to meet day-to-day air conditioning requirements.

Multiple compressors also allow for continuing operation in the case of partial breakdown. Heat-Frig, Torrie Lodge, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, Esher GU10 1SL.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Watches over big systems

TESDATA, whose central processor and peripheral monitors are helping the users of large IBM machines to raise machine throughput by significant factors, has filled the only gap remaining with the development—both lengthy and costly—of its telecommunication management system.

The MS 109 dovetails into what Tesdata calls AMS which is a total resource management system suitable for even the largest computer users.

It is able to measure up to 256 telephone lines working at speeds up to 960 bps and as many as 2000 control units or terminals. A single AMS can handle up to 2048 telephone lines via eight 109 systems.

Measurements cover total messages, message sizes and total characters; response time and number of response times over threshold; number of lines in use, line downtime and network downtime.

Test equipment is already fully operational in the U.S. at John Deere and Continental Bank.

One of the most useful aspects of the equipment is the way in which it dovetails with its stablemates to provide both a series of graphic displays on demand, and give advance warnings of impending trouble and over-year trends where required.

The new unit has 66 micros to run it, presents no burden to the communications lines or the front-end controller and is extremely easy to set up.

American Airlines is using Tesdata equipment to monitor its nine big central processors, as well as the 500 disc drives which enable that big group to maintain a vast data base. It is using 400 leased lines which will be monitored by the new Tesdata equipment.

Tesdata House, Hatfield Road, Slough, SL1 1QR. 0753 71961.

## Records long messages

RECORDACALL (Thorn Group) has a new telephone answering machine, the TA12, for heavy usage, where messages may be many and lengthy.

Press-button control keys allow the message recording tape to be activated instantly and facilitate quick changes in the answering announcement. A signal light glows to show when messages have been recorded.

Messages are received on a standard C90 tape cassette and are played back at the touch of a button through the built-in loudspeaker, or through an optional audio headset, if they need to be transcribed.

When very high handling capacity is necessary, more than one TA12 can be linked for telephone answering, message recording and audio data transmission. Recordacall offers a free service to analyse each individual requirement and to recommend a tailor-made system to meet it.

TA12 is designed to Post Office standards and is available from Recordacall, Rome House, 119, Gordon Road, London W15 8PR (Tel: 01-998 6292).

## WOODWORKING

### Shapes timber fast

SPECIALIST IN machinery for the processing of solid timber, Zuckerman KG or Vienna is to exhibit its Challenger low-priced copy-shaper-sander at Interbuild in Birmingham, December 2-8.

Standard model is a single-spindle machine which accepts a hopper-fed workpiece up to 43 x 84 x 84 inches. The fully automatic production cycle, depending on the complexity of the object being produced, can be less than a minute, and rarely exceeds two minutes for complex shapes.

Set-up time is minimal—a matter of seconds, says the company, or at the most a few minutes.

Machine operates from an enlarged cast-iron master and this can be prepared at any suitable foundry from an oversize wooden master which the machine itself prepares. A template is also prepared to control the shaping speed which is automatically varied according to the complexity of each part of the shape being copied.

Extra feature of the machine is that it sands the shaped component so finely that it is immediately ready for the finishing process.

Distributed in the UK through Riverlock, Moneyrow Green, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks. (0288 57848).

A student, on a microprocessors programming course organised by Bleasdale Computer Systems, controls the movements of a small robot which "obeys" orders from software developed during the teaching sessions. Bleasdale and the National Computing Centre have just signed a contract that awards the former £214,000 under the Department of Industry's Microprocessor Applications Project (MAP) for use in developing and providing equipment for nine courses on the application of microprocessors in industrial systems. Apart from its training courses for companies wishing to build up their own capability for developing systems Bleasdale also carries out feasibility studies and assists in the design of both hardware and software for automation and process control. Full details can be obtained from the company at 7, Church Path, Merton Park, London SW19 (01-825 6661).



## DATA PROCESSING

### Returns made on time

COMPANY annual returns can be handled by a new service designed by CIS (statutory) for chartered accountants, chartered secretaries, banks and others responsible for completing such returns on time, as demanded by the Companies Act in respect of companies with share capital.

The scheme has been devised jointly by CIS Computer Time Services which provides a variety of computerised services used exclusively by practising accountants, and by Amalgamated Registrars an associate of Stanley Davis (Company Services) which specialises in company formation and search. It has been designed to free trained staff from the repetitive tedium of completing and checking "form 6a."

On receipt of the relevant details—or of an updated copy of the last return—CIS (Statutory) will produce a computerised return in quadruplicate, to a layout and style which

has been approved by the Registrar of Companies. The user sends one copy to Companies House enclosing the annual fee, the second is filed with the relevant company's statutory documents, the third is for the accountant's client correspondence file and the fourth may be used for updating information either during the year or at the year-end.

Eleven months after production of a return, the client is sent a reminder that the next one is becoming due. He continues to receive reminders at monthly intervals until instructions to produce the return are given to CIS (Statutory). This will simply involve printing the information as it stands, revising the date of the next annual return, or applying any amendments as required. The cost of making whatever changes are necessary is included in the fee.

The service operates from Mazon House, Mazon Avenue, Harrow, Middx. 01-863 0111.

## Fast entry of data

SCAN-OPTICS, through its UK subsidiary, SO Systems, is putting high speed optical capture of data, including hand-printed numerals, within the range of smaller companies, with the introduction of the OCR System 515.

The unit is intended for data entry in either centralised or decentralised intermediate volume installations. It will function in a normal office environment, and may be operated by office personnel without special training. Components include a mini-computer, scanner, video terminal display and keyboard, and floppy discs for program and data storage. Options include communications, mag-

netic tape output, and audit trail.

An off-line, complete stand-alone system, it is capable of processing both pages and documents commonly used for business transactions.

The 515 can read a variety of OCR fonts as well as hand print. Maximum document throughput is 60 documents/min and maximum page throughput 7.5 pages/min.

On-line video image display/character insert allows easy checking and correction of rejected and suspect letters or numerals.

SO Systems, 36 Sunbury Cross Centre, Sunbury, Middx. Sunbury 88881.

## Control of investments

ANNOUNCEMENT of the removal of exchange controls could provide a major outlet for a CMG Computer Management Group product, a computer system to handle the accounting and management control of investment portfolios relating to any stock exchange in the world.

Abolition of controls may increase the accounting and management controls required in handling investment portfolios, and there will be greater activity in overseas shares, so efficient management control of portfolios will become even more essential.

Based on the INVEST system originally designed by CMG (City of London), and which has been successfully used for a number of years by many of the top British insurance com-

panies and pension funds, the new version of INVEST has been freed from its sterling base and made currency independent, enabling the user to define the base currency.

The computer software can be bought outright to run on most of the major manufacturers' computers anywhere in the world. It is also offered as a bureau service in the UK, Holland, Belgium and Germany. Management of shares within the portfolio is not restricted to any one currency. Once the base currency is defined as far as the overall accounting management is concerned, securities within a portfolio can be dealt with in other currencies.

CMG, Eastgate, 53-73 Leman Street, London E1 SEY. 01-481 8881.

The Post Office is publishing, free of charge, copies of a series of specially commissioned articles by independent experts, dealing with the distribution of small freight and parcels. The seventh in the series is summarised here; it is by J.D. Edgeley, Marketing Controller, British Mail Order Corporation.

# Mail Order and Prestel.

## Dramatic increase

The average annual increase in mail order turnover since 1966 has been 14%. By 1978 the total sales of mail order houses in the UK had reached over £2000 million—and the bulk of this is from agents selling from catalogues.

## Current procedures

During the last few years, the principal mail order companies have developed computerised systems which use Video Display Units to transfer orders from agent to computer.

These systems provide an immediate means for checking correctness. They make clear which items are out of stock, so that only orders which can be fulfilled are passed through from computer to warehouse via despatch notes. They also eliminate the need for separate order forms for merchandise held by different warehouses and manufacturers as the computer program ensures that the various items are sorted and printed out on the appropriate despatch notes.

## The promise of Prestel

The Post Office's Prestel system opens up exciting possibilities for mail order companies; it creates the opportunity to experiment with a new technology at relatively low cost.

That is why GUS, one of the biggest catalogue agency companies, is carrying out an in-depth test of the potential of Prestel in mail order.

## Market trial

GUS are sponsoring the installation of Prestel sets in the homes of a selected group of their agents. These

sets are specially modified 12" black-and-white models rather than the standard Prestel colour sets, so as to accommodate the GUS catalogue's alpha/numeric reference code.

The sample installation will be supplemented by sets installed in some of the GUS group's stores and the homes of agents who subscribe independently to the Prestel service.

Prestel, will, in effect, put the agent on line to the computer. Confirmation of orders or notification that a requested item is out of stock will be instantaneous.

The standard order procedure will be by-passed, producing substantial savings in staff and equipment through reduced Video Display Unit requirements in company offices.

There will be gains in flexibility, too; it will be a great deal easier to offer relatively low-quantity lines, sale goods, special offers. The future

The massive and exciting implications

for Prestel in mail order have yet to be fully realised.

The main influence must inevitably be the extent to which the Prestel service penetrates ordinary households.

In theory the need for printed catalogues could be eliminated altogether, though in practice this seems highly unlikely.

What is certain is that the advent of Prestel will make even brighter the already bright future of mail order.

Please send me... copies of the full article Mail Order and Prestel by J.D. Edgeley, Marketing Controller of the British Mail Order Corporation. I would also like copies of the previous articles in the series.

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## MATERIALS

### Less noise under the dome

ALTHOUGH THE intention of spraying the inside 33 metre high walls of the dome of the Sanctuary of St. Theresa in B'Kara, Malta, was to effect acoustic improvement, result of 2,000 sq metres of K-13 cellulose fibre application is enhancement of the dome's aesthetic appeal, claims CIBCO Insulations (UK), Washington, Tyne and Wear (member of RMC Group).

This was carried out for architect and engineer, Naudi and Aquilina, by the maker of the system and was completed in six days.

Material is composed of graded waste paper recycled as cellulose fibres which are blended and chemically treated to resist fire, mould and mildew. It is available in several colour shades, although white was chosen for the church project.

Following the success of this contract, says the company, it has been asked to tender for another job in Malta—spraying 6,000 sq metres of K-13 at the film studios there.

### Will clean it all up

PAPER and archival materials which may long have collected dust or grease in museums, public record offices, libraries, etc., can be cleaned with a product which basically consists of a new form of natural rubber, permanently tacky, which is moulded into a cigar-shaped pellet and merely rolled on to a delicate surface.

This will also clean and degrease smooth or worked metals, glass and other solids, lifting the dirt from crevices in intricately fashioned jewellery, and its non-solvent action could help the typist minimise typing errors without disturbing adjacent matter. It is a gentle remover of finger marks from fine or important documents, too.

Supplier of the cleanser, called Groom/Stick, is Pileator Enterprises, 44, Park View Gardens, Hendon, London NW4 (01-202 8972).

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## THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

Darrell Delamaide reports on a ten-year survey of company performance in Europe and the U.S.

## Nothing going for mergers

MERGERS do not increase profitability, do not improve efficiency and, in fact, do not seem to have any social value at all. Nor do the textbook reasons for merger activity—economies of scale or diversification of risk—obtain in the majority of merger cases.

These are some of the conclusions drawn by researchers from seven countries working on a project co-ordinated by the International Institute for Management and Administration (IIMV) in Berlin. The conclusions are based on data collected over a period of ten years from 788 merger cases in Belgium, France, Germany, the UK, Netherlands, Sweden and the U.S. Preliminary results of the unpublished research were presented at a conference in Berlin last month.

General popular hypotheses about the causes and effects of mergers were found to be unsupported by the data gathered for these seven countries, wrote the project organisers in a summary of the findings. For example, mergers did not result in improved efficiency, lower prices, expanded sales, and increased benefits for the consumer. "Perhaps most surprising of all," they said, mergers do not systematically result in higher profits for the merging firms.

## Burden of proof

Governments and regulatory agencies, continue the researchers, should therefore keep a closer eye on merger activity and perhaps impose greater restraints. In West Germany, for instance, suggest project co-ordinator, John Cable of the University of Warwick, and his German colleague Jürgen Runge, in a recent *Wirtschaftswochen* article, the planned revision of the cartel law should automatically prohibit most mergers unless the parties can demonstrate some social value to the transaction. The burden of proof, in short, should be shifted to industry from the cartel office.

Findings and recommendations such as these are bound to fuel the public debate about industrial concentration, not

only in Germany and other European countries but on the EC level as well. Other institutions participating in the study, underway since 1975, are the University of Cambridge in the UK, the University of Maryland in the U.S., Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales in France, Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, University of Tilburg in the Netherlands, and the Business and Social Research Institute in Sweden.

The researchers concede differences arising from historical development and institutions in the countries examined but nonetheless find certain general patterns emerging from the data, which was gathered according to a common methodology for the five-year periods preceding and following a merger. Data for a random sample of non-merging firms was assembled for control purposes. In all 3,000 companies were covered.

The data shows that there is no clear correlation between merger activity and improved performance. "In Belgium, the UK, U.S. and Germany," says the project summary, "merging firms achieved a slightly better post-merger profit performance than did comparable firms not involved in mergers. However, the differences are small and could be due to other causes, while in the Netherlands, France and Sweden merging firms performed slightly worse than comparable non-merging firms."

Nor do mergers seem to bring any increase in efficiency that can be passed on to the consumer in lower prices—theoretically enabling the acquiring company to achieve a relatively faster turnover growth. "This occurred in not one single country," writes three of the project analysts in a preliminary draft of the forthcoming book which will present the findings. In the Netherlands and the U.S. the growth rates of the merging firms were actually lower in the post-merger period than that of the control group firms, while in the other countries "there was no statistically significant change in growth rates."

Anticipating the charge that five years following a takeover

might not be adequate to judge the effects on profit or growth, the researchers examined data on rate of return on the shares of acquiring firms—reasoning that the stock market would reflect longer-term expectations for these companies. Here again there was no indication that even in the long term a merger raised expectations of improved performance. "The conclusion that mergers increase economic efficiency (as evidenced by profit and growth increases) could not be satisfied in a single country," runs the preliminary text of the project report.

The project data was equally negative regarding the classical motivations for mergers. The notion that smaller firms join together to achieve economies of scale and become more competitive ran contrary to the finding that "acquiring firms are larger than randomly selected firms from their industries, larger than the average firm in their industries, and larger than the firms they acquire." They are, in short, big. In Germany, for instance, merged firms are four times bigger on average than non-merged firms.

This image of a hungry giant swallowing up smaller firms emerges consistently across all seven countries, project analysts claim. "Acquiring firms tend to be large, fast growing, highly leveraged companies relative to the firms they acquire and often relative to randomly selected control group companies."

No clear patterns on risk diversification emerged from measuring variances in profitability for both acquiring and acquired firms before and after a merger. Nor was there any indication that mergers took place to increase leverage, even though acquiring firms generally were more highly leveraged.

## Aggressive management

"It would appear," write the analysts, "that leverage is in some other way related to mergers. If we interpret high leverage as symbolic of aggressive management and a tendency to pursue growth, then it would appear that acquisitions are made by aggressive management." This is an interesting correlation, even if it does seem tautological at first, for there seem to be very few other reasons for merging once one is through assimilating the conclusions of the IIMV project.

Many other hypotheses—whether, for instance, acquired firms tend to be weak or even threatened with extinction—produce much more nuanced data. And the project analysts are careful to put the merger phenomenon of the 60s and 70s in the context of the pronounced growth in international trade, capital flows and investment, which changed the competitive environment and, among other things, encouraged many European governments actively to promote industrial concentration to increase international competitiveness.

But, imply these researchers, latter-day mergers often seem akin to empire-building with no demonstrable social benefit to compensate for the inherent reduction in competition.



THERE are a few loose ends in British banking. Keyser Ullmann, the merchant banking concern, is one of the more obvious members of this non-top-exclusive club. Quite simply, it is a bank struggling to employ fully the resources at its disposal. It is a bank without that most important feature—an unchallenged past and a specialist reputation. Not surprisingly, it is a bank in search of a new future for itself. One of its main assets is tax losses of £60m.

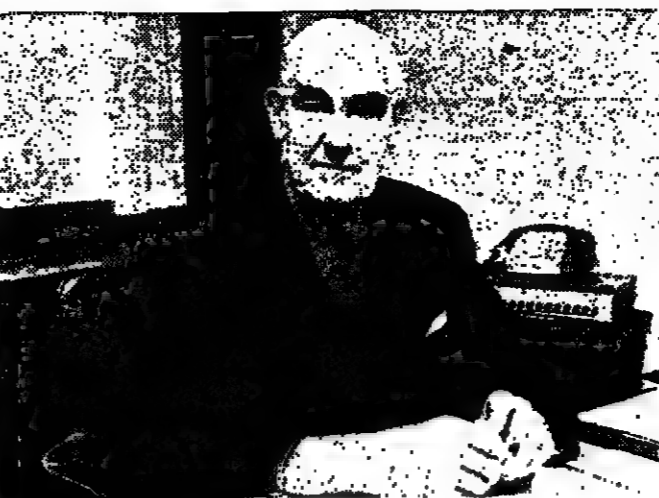
The story of Keyser Ullmann over the past decade is in many respects the story of the fringe banking crisis, the property collapse, temporary whizz kids and the like. As recently as 1971 it was a small concern with net assets of less than £5m. Two years, and two major takeovers later, it had ballooned into a bank claiming net assets of £82m. In 1974, following the disposal of its controlling interest in the largest of the acquisitions—Central and District Properties—the board, chaired by the Tory backbencher Edward du Cann, could proudly claim that shareholders' funds exceeded £100m, while attributable profits were almost £10m.

But it was not to last long at such relatively dizzy heights. Despite Mr. du Cann's claim in the 1974 annual report that Keyser had made "a realistic assessment" of the lending and provided for all known and likely contingencies, the 1975 accounts were to reveal massive losses and write-offs, totalling no less than £61m. Further losses and provisions in the following two years took Keyser Ullmann's net assets to a low point of £31m in 1977.

In truth, the 1974 accounts were no model of accounting presentation. Keyser claimed to have made attributable profits for the year of almost £10m, but it would have been truer and fairer to say that the group had incurred losses of at least £7m. The difference (£17m) between the two figures arises because Keyser Ullmann effectively put the provision directly into the balance-sheet rather than deducting it from pre-tax profits. Almost all the losses related to property loans. Throughout

Keyser Ullmann is out of the wood, as Michael Lafferty reports

## The 'Milk Street' bank seeks a new City liaison



Derek Wilde, chairman of Keyser Ullmann, which suffered severely during the fringe banking collapse.

1974 the board had sought to maintain confidence but the end of the old regime at Keyser's Milk Street headquarters came towards the end of March 1975 when Mr. du Cann resigned. He was replaced on the same day by Mr. Derek Wilde, a former senior general manager of Barclays, and at the time one of its vice-chairmen. He took on the job at the request of Mr. Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England.

Wilde's first task was to go through the loan book at Keyser Ullmann. What he learned about the bank's position led him to decide that there would have to be a change of management. Accordingly, in July 1975, Mr. Ronald Franklin and Mr. Ian Stoutz, brothers-in-law and joint managing directors, resigned. At the time Derek Wilde commented: "Their departure marks a break. I think that break must be demonstrated."

The extent of official concern about restoring confidence at Keyser was again demonstrated a few months later when Roy Fenton, a senior Bank of England official, became chief executive.

Under the careful direction of Derek Wilde and Roy Fenton, Keyser Ullmann was gradually pulled round. It needed the support of the Bank of England's "lifeline" for almost two and a half years, at one time to an extent of £85m.

In 1977, however, enough progress had been made in asset realisation for KU to stand,

albeit somewhat shakily, on its own feet. In 1978 it made a profit of £841,000 before provision write-backs of a further £2m.

By May this year Derek Wilde was able to report that debts in the course of realisation had been reduced to a rump of £31m. "A good deal has been achieved in the past 12 months and with the end of the year we think we can put the past behind us and concentrate on our plans for the future," he wrote to shareholders.

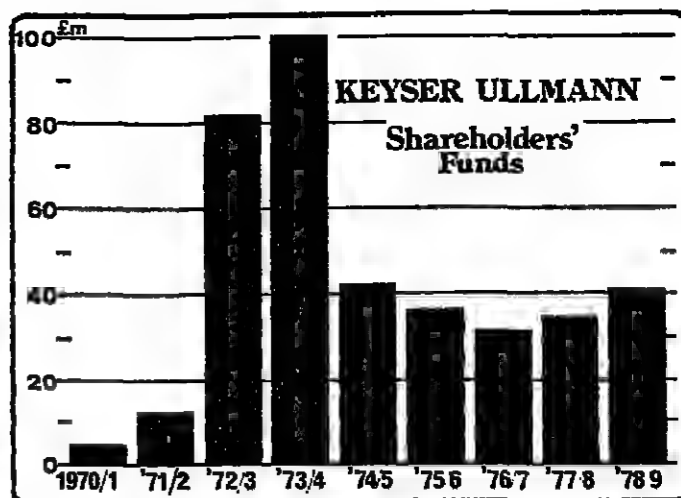
The 1978 balance sheet shows Keyser Ullmann with net assets of £41m. But it is more under-estimated than is suggested by the figures of deposits at £186m and advances of £134m. On the latest balance sheet it could easily take on a further £40m-£50m of lending.

Derek Wilde is frank about the problems KU still faces. It is not finding it easy to identify profitable lending opportunities, despite the fact that with its new management it is now "perfectly sound and well-established and finds no difficulty in raising deposits."

"A considerable problem for us is that of restoring our name. Many people still remember us for what happened four years ago," he admits.

Wilde believes that Keyser Ullmann needs to become identified with some special activity or expertise in order to help restore its reputation. "You can't judge a bank just by its profits. You've got to have a reputation for being expert."

The right area, to his mind, could well be in the finance of medium-sized growing companies. "We want to identify a



number of growing companies and then to stand alongside and help them with their financial problems," he says.

But that is, to say the least, medium-term stuff. Keyser Ullmann needs to do something more immediate to justify its continued existence.

At one time Mr. Wilde felt that a large minority participation from a large foreign bank might be "a sensible arrangement." The idea was that the foreign bank might bring in further funds, enabling KU to make a takeover of another profitable UK financial business. He got as far as talking to one or two interested parties a few years ago.

Today, with Keyser's much improved position, he is less interested in this solution. A takeover or merger without any other party becoming involved is now a more likely possibility. "We must try to do something which will make full use of our tax losses," comments Mr. Wilde.

He says that "all sorts of possibilities" have crossed his mind, including the notion of bringing two or three existing banks together.

## Takeover

Looking around the City there are a number of other names which almost certainly have come into Keyser Ullmann's thinking. In the accepting house club the obvious names include Singer and Friedlander, Charterhouse Japhet and Antony Gibbs Holdings. Singer and Friedlander is part of the C. T. Bowring group, whose

interests include insurance broking and the Bowmaker finance house. Last year it reported net banking profits of about £1m.

Antony Gibbs is tiny by banking standards, with reported profits of around £2m and a capitalisation of around £8m. It is 40 per cent owned by Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, but would seem to have very little to offer Keyser Ullmann by itself. Keyser is capitalised at around £35m and must be earning pre- and post-tax profits of at least £3m a year.

Charterhouse Japhet is also very small by itself, with reported net banking profits of less than £1m. However, it is part of the Charterhouse Group financial conglomerate which has a market value of £55m and reported pre-tax profits of £11.4m in the 15 months to September 1978.

The idea of a takeover/merger also ought to have attracted the attention of the larger merchant banks, who desperately need new equity resources to sustain the growth in lending volumes. But whether they would contemplate a link with a bank which is still so identified with the dark days of the recent past is another matter.

Whatever happens, Derek Wilde does not anticipate the demise of the traditional accepting houses. "They've been around the world. They know the world. They have great reputations." There's no doubting that this wise and senior clearing banker would very much like to hitch his latest charge to one of them.

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THE ARTS

Hayward Gallery

# The Thirties in art

by WILLIAM PACKER

A decade as such is for the most part only an arbitrary period in the chronology, an apparent convenience of reference rather than real usefulness; but for once with the Thirties, topped and tailed as they were so neatly, the easy habit of thought actually makes sense. With economic collapse at one end and World War at the other, and containing on the one hand the rise to power of Hitler's National Socialism, and the emergence onto the world stage of Stalin's Soviet Russia on the other, with its dangerously specious attractiveness to so many in the West, with a New Deal in America and the Abdication at home, they do indeed take on a true, if somewhat sorry historical significance.

But for me, who was born in the late summer of 1940, the Thirties were altogether more appealing in their fascination, that enchanted and golden time before the War, when eggs and oranges came fresh in shell and skin, when jam and butter went onto the bread together, and when the shops themselves were made of sweets. Those who lived through them, as through any age, knew the reality, the natural awareness and disappointments of daily life, saw through the desperate optimism of manufacturers, advertisers and politicians. Here the Thirties, it seems, were a time shot through with both anxiety and hope, idealistic, well-intentioned and insecure.

The good and healthy life was sought in the belief that it was there to be found: the life of the open air took over from that of youth alone, and the hills were alive to the tramp of hiking-boots, and the rustle of maps. The open road filled up with family tourers, the fields with semi-detached villas. The modern spirit was abroad, the figure of progress, even faster, more efficient, more clear-cut. Perhaps the world could become a better place: but war came instead, and it had been seen coming a long way off. Such disappointment and disillusionment were perhaps too hard to bear, and the Thirties still remain the least loved of times by those who experienced them.

The Arts Council, in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum, has devoted a



"Hiking" by James Walker Tucker

mammoth exhibition to the period, crumpling the Hayward (until January 13) with British art and design from before the war. It is an astonishing collection of stuff, as rich in achievement as it is in variety; but even so a distinguished friend, one closely involved with the show, remarked to me that there was not a single thing in it that she felt she could possibly hear to own. Taken with a fair pinch of salt, such a reaction is understandable, but we who missed the Thirties can afford to be more generous, and must vehemently disagree — our turn no doubt will come soon enough.

Inevitably the major disciplines, painting, sculpture and architecture (which last I leave to my colleague) are given a great deal of space, and quite right too: the Thirties after all saw the early maturity, and in retrospect the crucial achievements in the careers of both Henry Moore and Ben Nicholson. And other young artists

too were establishing their reputations, John Piper and Rodrigo Moynihan with experimental abstraction, Ceri Richards veering towards an abstract surrealism, Barbara Hepworth with the simplest and most refined of her carvings, and late in the decade Graham Sutherland leaving print-making for painting, and Ivon Hitchens, both men absorbed by the romantic landscape.

But, received prejudices to the contrary, though these young moderns undoubtedly faced many difficulties, they were by no means alone in a nasty world. The list of their contemporaries is long and impressive: Paul Nash and Edward Wadsworth, Wyndham Lewis, David Jones, Eric Gill, Stanley Spencer as volatile and idiosyncratic as ever, Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell, Edward Burra and Cecil Collins, William Roberts, Matthew Smith, and Epstein for the moment the arch-foes. And Walter Sickert was the grand old man, now working

boldly and controversially from photographic reference. The strength of this coverage is its even-handedness, for the major figures are not isolated and the spread of activity is fairly registered: which serves to throw up a number of pleasurable surprises. The minor figures, among them several of the despised academicians, fully merit a closer look, particularly Algernon Newton, Eric Ravilious with a remarkably decorative tennis party, James Cowie, Charles Spence, Laura Knight with her carriage balloons, and a deliciously unfair Private View by Gladys Hynes—but any such choice is a personal matter. There are gaps, of course, with Bomberg conspicuously under-represented; but overall the statement is impressively convincing. And the spread continues directly from the fine into the applied arts: furniture, fabric, ceramic, glass, silver, plastic, bakelite (of which there is surprisingly little). The ver-

satility of the artists is clear enough, but it bespeaks a commendable broad-mindedness on the part of patrons and clients, for someone presumably invited Eric Ravilious to design the chair we see, and Eric Gill the corner clock, Paul Nash the cup and saucer, and Vanessa Bell the fabric. Specialism was not always assumed, and commercial concerns had a good record in inviting artists to work for them. Shell and Imperial Airways both get sections to themselves for posters that include examples designed by Sutherland, Nicholson, Barnett Freedman and McKnight Kauffer.

The great designers who did specialise of course must get their due, but the point is that much cross-fertilisation evidently took place, and was actively encouraged. The high quality of design and craftsmanship in all the fields suggests an enviable healthy and open state of affairs. Upstairs the exhibition takes on a more documentary character, with a lot of emphasis on industrial design, relating in particular to speed and travel. On the terrace outside sits a replica of Sir Malcolm Campbell's Bluebird, whilst inside are scale models of such things as the Gresley Pacific locomotive, Silver Link, a Short Empire Flying Boat, and Schneider Trophy Supermarine S.6; and there are engines, and motor bikes, and model cars, and all the paraphernalia of persuading the public to buy them.

On through the exhibition we come to Dinky Toys and Penguin Books, Picture Post and Lilliput, Low, Heath Robinson and Pont, and most fascinating of all the innumerable photographs, almost all of them from the now invaluable Daily Herald archive that my colleague on this page, Dr Strong, saved from the shredder at the very last moment some years ago. Ian Jeffrey's admirable selection offers us a sympathetic, sometimes hilarious bird's eye view of the British at work and play all those years ago. James Jarché and Edward Malinge take up honourable positions among the great documentary photographers of the century. William and his organising committee have put together a splendidly entertaining and instructive exhibition.

# Huddersfield Music Festival

by ANDREW CLEMENTS

The Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival runs for a week—a busy mixture of recitals, workshops and lectures, together with a competition for young composers sponsored by the Yorkshire Arts Association. It is a brave venture, now in its second year, organised by Richard Steinix and centred on Huddersfield Polytechnic. The first festival was built around a survey of the music of George Crumb; this year the fare is more varied. Details of workshops and the competition must await a second report, but the central weekend was in large part sustained by the presence of three prestigious instrumentalists who make a speciality of contemporary music: trombonist Vinko Globokar, pianist Frederic Rzewski and bassoonist Harry Sparnaay.

It was a considerable achievement to secure such talent, but the quality of their talents was rather variable. On Friday evening Globokar gave a potted history of the development of the trombone in the last dozen years, a programme that began with Berio's *Sequenza V* and included three works of Globokar's own composition. To my mind he remains a brilliant executant and innovator, but a composer of more dubious quality. There seems to be little more than technique in *Exchanges* for any brass instrument, a catalogue of the effects that can be obtained on a brass instrument while the form and musical content of the piece is to a large extent left to the player, or more than virtuosic demands in *Res/As/Ex/In/Pier*, a machine-like continuum of the sounds of breathing in and out through the trombone. Globokar's dabblings in the fringe of music theatre in *Vorspielung* came over as second-hand Kagel more than as an example of any authentic performing theory, although his performance of Kagel's own *Atem* made comic if not dramatic sense.

Atem also ended Harry Sparnaay's short, fascinating programme in the Polytechnic's Department of Music on Sunday morning. Sparnaay has emerged in recent years as a virtuoso of the top flight, as accomplished in conventional scores as in pieces demanding more theatricality. His version of *Atem* made something more cogent out of Kagel's whimsical scheme but the core of his recital was Brian Ferneyhough's *Time and Motion Study 1*, a diabolic *moto perpetuo* in which the extraordinary demands made of the performer here suggest a more coherent and dramatic statement than they do in some of his other recent pieces. Sparnaay's performance was

equally extraordinary. He had begun his recital with the first performance of Lyell Creswell's *Hocket* for bass clarinet and tape-delay system; a neat, confident use of simple musical and technological ideas carefully chosen from those characteristics of the instrument most suited to tape manipulation.

If Sparnaay's recital proved the most rewarding of the three, Rzewski's programme was the most frustrating. It was devoted to two of his own works, *The People United Will Never Be Defeated* of 1975, and his more recent *Four Pieces for Piano*. In the 70s Rzewski has deserted the radical techniques of his earlier music for music of more direct emotional and political impact. *The People United* is a set of 35 variations on a Chilean popular song of the Allende years; the treatment is basically late-romantic (much of the bravura playing is sustained only by the recurrence of the theme tune in recognisable form—it is a memorable political song—elsewhere there is difficulty in finding much of interest in Rzewski's re-working of the material). He gives the first London performance of the work in his concert at the ICA next Sunday evening.

The main thread of the Festival was confined to two concerts each day, but the general air of busyness on the Polytechnic campus was maintained by a whole range of less formal events. Apart from their solo recitals reviewed here yesterday, Frederic Rzewski and Vinko Globokar gave lectures and Globokar a trombone masterclass, while the leading performers of the weekend gathered together for a platform discussion on Sunday afternoon. The composers' competition organised by the Yorkshire Arts Association was judged on the basis of workshop performances of the shortlisted compositions in each category—for an ensemble of flute, clarinet, violin and cello with or without soprano, and for solo percussionist. The group Gemini conducted by Peter Wiegold with the soprano Margaret Field presented the ensemble piece *Justus Wood* those for percussion.

In its concert in the Polytechnic's Great Hall on Saturday evening, Gemini introduced the winner of the ensemble category, Julian Dale's *Quand s'en vont les crocissies* is a setting of three fragments from Apollinaire, episodic in construction, contrasting lyrical, static soprano solos with more spiky, harmonically varied instrumental interludes. It is not a piece of any great originality—the instrumental writing recalls Bartok and Maxwell Davies, while the vocal line looks back to Ravel—but it was chosen by the judges (David Blake and Peter Wiegold) more for its evidence of potential talent than for any intrinsic quality. Julian Dale has had no formal musical education and his compositional technique is entirely self-taught; on that basis his technical fluency is impressive.

Gemini's programme also contained *Pierrot Lunaire*, sung by Margaret Field in Cecil Gray's English translation and sounding uncomfortably like Walton's *Façade* at times, and Bartok's *Linoi* for clarinet and piano, in a remarkably assured performance by David Campbell and Stephen Pruslin. As an overture Gemini included Peter Wiegold's *Prelude 1* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and a conductor who plays percussion. On first hearing it was unsubstantial and unmemorable, though the score reveals some neat proportioning and delicate texturing.

After last year's feast of George Crumb, Huddersfield confined itself this time to the first British performance of one work, *Makrokosmos III* for two amplified pianos and percussion, subtitled "Music for a Summer Evening." It formed the central panel of a concert given on Sunday evening by the young piano duo of Keith Williams and Penny Rowlands with the percussionists Richard Stoneman and Martin Allen. Mr. Williams and Miss Rowlands are technically sound but brittle in manner; there was some stiffness in their performance of Ligeti's *Monument*. *Schubert's* *Monument*, which made it curiously dry and cerebral.

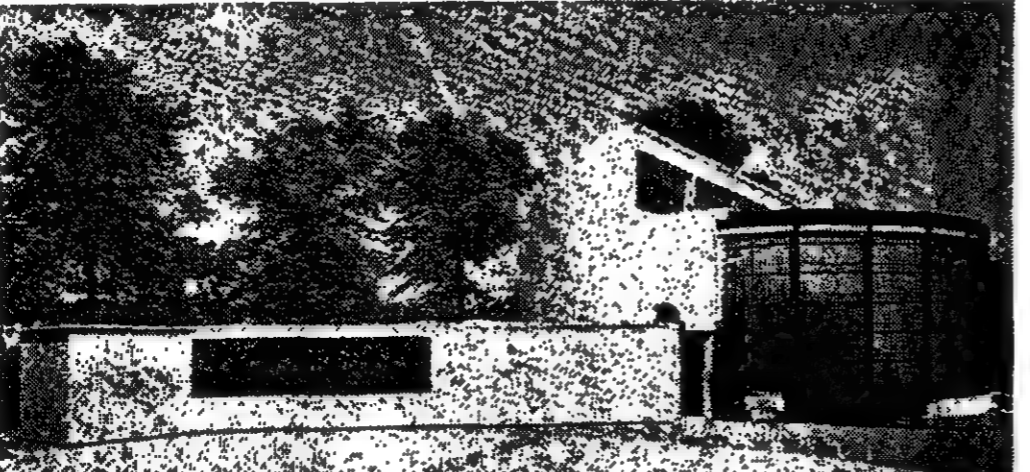
As one's knowledge of Crumb's recent music grows, so does one's impatience. *Makrokosmos III* has been available on disc here for several years; as a background to another activity its effects can provide a pleasant, sometimes poetic, background. But in a concert hall with no distractions the emptiness, the extended passages without a single significant musical idea and the embarrassing use of a quotation from a Bach fugue in the last section all suggest nothing but the thinnest of musical veneers. The rut into which Crumb has dug himself seems deeper than ever.

# ... and architecture

by COLIN AMERY

It was during the 1830s that architects suffered from a serious identity crisis. As a profession they were becoming increasingly organised and a series of Registration Acts made it difficult for anyone to practise architecture unless they were suitably qualified. As architects began to behave more like doctors and lawyers it became more difficult to see them as artists. Wells Coates, a leading architect of the period, wrote in 1938 that "the new architectural currency is being designed in two materials: first, human needs... second, the new resources of technology."

There was no mention of art. Later in the decade the MARS Group (a collection of architects engaged in "Modern Architecture Research" and propaganda) were to write that the new architecture demanded a new approach that was dependent on the architect assuming certain social responsibilities. Here the identity crisis begins, should the architect compromise his artistic integrity and take up social engineering? The fruits of this dilemma are what we can see on the walls of the Hayward Gallery in the current



Lubetkin and Tecton: Gorilla House, London Zoo

documentary exhibition about British art and design before the war.

It is a deeply fascinating exhibition that succeeds by excess. It is a difficult task to exhibit all the art and design of a decade, particularly when the decade is so recent and our powers of discrimination are as yet untutored to decide the artistic worth of so many of the

artefacts. Although the Hayward show is basically about art and design it is more enjoyable as a slice of social history. It must have been difficult for the exhibition committee to decide on the criteria for selection of exhibits—the encyclopaedic approach removes the need for artistic criteria.

It is important therefore to approach the architectural exhibits with caution. As the catalogue tells us we are witnessing a decade of conflict. The selectors of the architecture have opted to keep the combatants apart. The Modern Movement is isolated in Room 11 and you have a room full of paintings and a glimpse of Miss Tilly Losch's bathroom before you reach the other kind of architecture that is exhibited as a "spectrum of styles" in Room 8. I think that both schools of thought would have benefited from closer proximity and the real design dilemma, which is endlessly debated by academics, could have been laid more clearly before the public.

As it is the white cubes of the Modern Movement houses stand as a silent tribute to the pioneers. They are like a burst of light, always photographed in the sun, gravely reflecting their commitment to social as well as artistic rearrangement. Lubetkin, Tecton, Wells Coates, Goldfinger, Connell, Ward and Lucas—their names are like a litany of candidates for saint-

hood. Or are they, as many critics would have us believe, emissaries of the Devil bringing the architecture of evil collectivism to England's too hospitable shores? The answer is not spelt out on the walls of the Hayward Gallery but the question should be borne in mind by all who care about the progress and development of architecture.

The architects chosen to contribute to the "spectrum of styles" tend towards the traditional or the powerful practitioners of architectural modernism, who produced buildings that dropped the trappings of classicism or the Gothic and concentrated on elements of form. This room is particularly distinguished by the presence of the work of the great architectural perspectivists, Harvey, Farey and Pilkington who created the image of architecture for the public.

There is so much that deserves comment: the design of cinemas, the rise of welfare architecture, the range and imagination of the interior designers and, over the whole exhibition, the looming presence of the great model of Sir Edwin Lutyens's Liverpool Roman Catholic cathedral—an unbuilt masterpiece. Outstanding in the decade was the employment of artists by the great corporations; London Transport is undoubtedly the most remarkable for the stringent aesthetic care that it applied to all aspects of its operation. While the architects were troubled by their stylistic concerns, the great corporate clients of the 30s satled on with confidence.

One aspect of the exhibition that must also be mentioned is the skilful underpinning of the hideous Hayward by Neave Brown and Max Fordham. There is so much to see — go twice, at least.

# The Dome, Brighton

## Gruber's Violin Concerto

by DAVID MURRAY

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic had a lively success last year with H. K. Gruber's "pan-demonium for baritone and orchestra" (Frankenstein!), and on Sunday John Carewe and the Brighton Philharmonic presented his new violin concerto, just four weeks after its Berlin premiere. The soloist on each occasion was its dedicatee, the young Austrian virtuoso Ernst Kovacic, who indeed played it with dedicated panache—as well he might, for the rich solo part fits his clean, springing attack and high-flying security like a glove.

The Concerto is markedly Viennese, but neither lush nor nostalgic. Its single movement—25 minutes of developing variations which at last declare a Gruber popular-song tune in limpid E major—acknowledges Berg candidly as its ancestor; especially the final section of Berg's own Violin Concerto with its telling one-line harp part and luminous string-textures. Again the soloist begins by ruminating on open strings and their harmonics, and there is even a kind of *Hauptthema* (with a Charleston beat). There is, however, no apocalypse, and no edge of hysteria. The tone is that of intimate communication, ethereally light (only single winds, and a very modest battery) and astonishingly unbackward-looking.

Gruber describes the work as "tonal, and relatively consonant," which is exactly right. What he has taken from Berg excludes all the post-Romantic chromaticism, not only the 12-note principle. There is a sort of diatonic serialism discreetly at work here (rising and falling fragments of the E major scale are everywhere); the main points of reference are tonal, but the harmony proceeds by oblique knight's moves. The part-writing has the marks of traditional craftsmanship, without ever proceeding along expected lines. Some borrowing from the resources of early jazz and Continental pop is entirely assimilated, not brandished for theatrical or jokey effect. With the discursive voice of the solo violin always dominant, the successive sections describe a

measured rising tempo, broken by sharply characterised cadences, up to the peroration. High silver sounds echo through the score. I found the middle variations disconcertingly moving.

What is un-Viennese in Gruber's music is the absence of any historical freight; he has an entirely modern interest in construction (he is a member of the *die reihe* new-music ensemble) and a no less modern, unacademic respect for the expressive power of tones (he was a Vienna choirboy before that, and of course a teenager). These unite happily in the Concerto without a sign of friction. Many a composer must hanker guiltily after such a compromise; Gruber has shown that it is really possible, and not a compromise at all.

# Kent Opera's autumn season

Kent Opera's autumn season opens at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne, on November 6, with a performance of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, a revival of Norman Platt's production.

In addition to Eastbourne (November 6-10) the company will visit Southsea (November 13-17), Bath (November 20-24) and for the first time Taunton (November 27-December 1), as well as Horsham (December 4), Canterbury (December 6-8) and Tunbridge Wells (December 12-15).

Two new productions will be seen during this season: *Jonas* after Miller's conception of *La traviata*, which opened at the city's Edinburgh Festival, and Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, which sees the Kent Opera debut of producer Nicholas Hytner, designer Douglas Heap and lighting designer Mark Henderson. Roger Norrington conducts both these operas and also *Idomeneo*.

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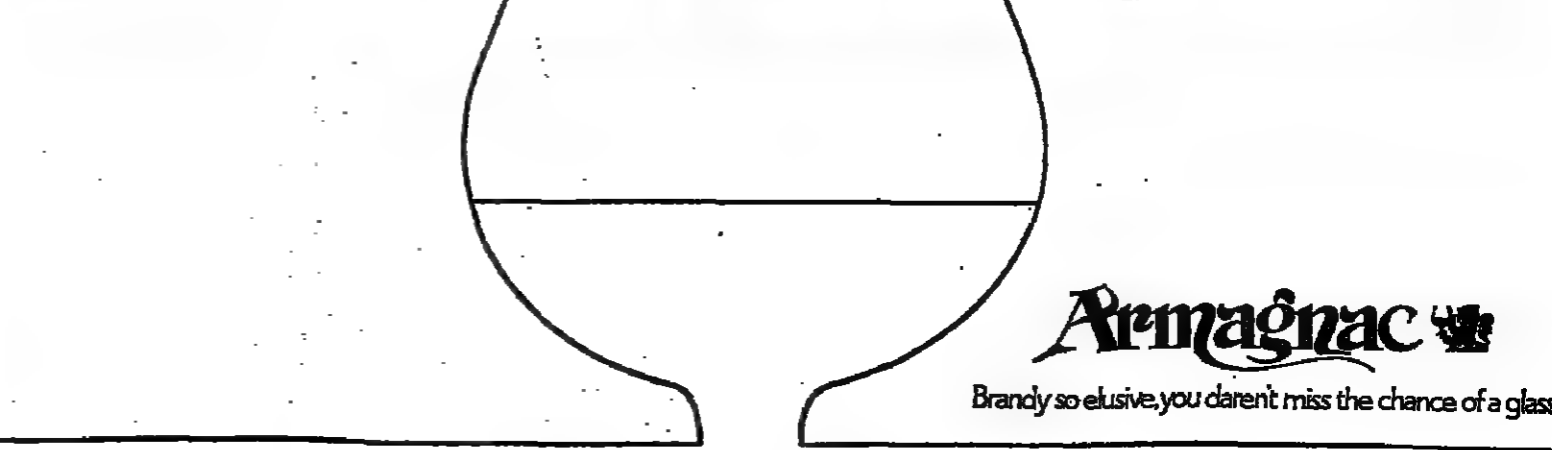
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Tuesday October 30 1979

## Complaining in advance

THE PROTEST from a number of distinguished academics in recent days about the Government decision on fees for foreign students is on the face of it a little odd. The letter from the University Grants Committee which started the whole fuss repeats the Government's well-known aim of charging full cost to foreign students, and says that this policy will be reflected in future financial support through the University Grants Committee; but it makes it clear that the difficult question of defining an economic tuition fee is still under discussion. The learned opposition has chosen to ignore this, and protest against what it supposes will be the conclusion.

## Important point

While it is clearly right that the Vice-Chancellors should seek to make their views heard before any final decisions are taken, this is rather an odd way to set about it. It was the White Queen, hardly a model of rational conduct, who believed in crying before you are actually hurt. The danger here is that by caricaturing what they believe to be the Government's ideas, the protesters will make any subsequent sensible decision look like a retreat, and so provoke the very error that they fear. This would be more than a pity, for they have an important point to make.

The problem is that two issues seem to have become entangled, perhaps because they are covered in the same letter. One is the charging of economic fees to foreign students; the other is the Government's decision to freeze real expenditure on higher education, despite the potential rise in student numbers in the next few years.

The Vice-Chancellors have drawn the conclusion that the Government is seeking to make its economies achieved by concentrating all future expenditure on home students, and cutting support in proportion to the number of foreign students in any given institution. What in fact is proposed is to cut support on the assumption that "economic" fees are being charged on a basic yet to be agreed, which is a very different matter—or should be.

The definition of an economic tuition fee is in fact a difficult question. At one extreme it could be estimated as a simple average cost; at the other it could be argued that the attributable cost of an extra student

on any course is nil. A realistic definition, as a market-oriented Government must surely be aware, must take account not only of costs, but of what the market will bear—in other words, some estimate of the going world rate for higher education.

## Practical question

This is a highly practical question, since it is clear that no public money would be saved by insisting that universities should charge fees so high that student numbers would drop sharply. This would reduce overseas income instead of boosting it, and would furthermore hit hardest at the very institutions which the Government most wishes to support—universities of international reputation, and especially at centres of science and technology, where the shortage of British candidates for places is a long-standing worry.

However, within this market constraint, the principle of charging the full going rate for British tuition seems sensible. There is no evidence that the considerable fee increases already imposed have discouraged overseas applications. The overseas demand at the full going rate is in fact quite a telling index of the quality and reputation of particular colleges and universities.

Some such guide is badly needed; because if the Government is really determined to get better value for public expenditure on higher education, the question of quality will surely have to be faced sooner or later. The slogan of academic freedom does not justify the presumption that all universities are equal, when clearly they are not, or that the options chosen by school-leavers are the only possible guide to the allocation of expensive resources.

## Difficult

The questions raised by attempting to assess the quality of institutions, or the social value of different disciplines are appallingly difficult; but one valuable result of the fuss of the past few days is that it is clear that some of our most distinguished academic would rather tackle these questions than seek some simple cross-the-board formula measuring cost but ignoring the value of output. This is an opportunity for real reassessment which the Education Secretary should seize.

## Another attempt at saving Cambridge Instrument

By DAVID FISHLOCK and RICHARD LAMBERT

TOMORROW shareholders in the Cambridge Instrument Company will vote on the latest reconstruction plan for their financially battered business. Their meeting is a formality. It is clear that without the proposals—which include the injection of a further substantial tranche of public equity from the National Enterprise Board—Cambridge could not survive.

The company has already received over £9m of public money in the last five years, mostly as equity. But the continuing drain of heavy losses left it with shareholders' funds of just £734,000 at the end of last June. And even this precarious equity base has since been wiped out by pre-tax losses of around £890,000 in July and August.

Meanwhile, its borrowings have been shooting up. At the end of September, they amounted to nearly £10m, almost all in the form of bank loans and overdraft.

The company has already been completely reshaped three times since 1968, when the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation used public funds to back its acquisition by George Kent against a rival offer from the Rank Organisation. During that period it has been permanently undercapitalised and more often than not in the red. So the questions are why the NEB is determined to have one more try at setting Cambridge on its feet—and whether it has any chance of success.

## Advances in technology

The answer is that Cambridge lies at the forefront of world technology in a number of areas where Britain is otherwise poorly represented.

Although its production and financial controls have been visibly inadequate, the quality of its research and product development is not in question. So the NEB is planning everything on its choice of an independent entrepreneur, a British-

born U.S. citizen, who claims that under revamped management the business could be making a very respectable return within three years.

Cambridge is held in highest esteem as an instrument maker. The electron microscope is the most versatile of the "big machines" of science, and the company has been closely associated with the big advances in electron microscopy and electron-beam microanalysis made in Britain in the past 25 years. Its proximity to the Cavendish Laboratory and the engineering laboratories of Cambridge University, and to Tube Investments' research laboratories near Cambridge, where some of the seminal advances in this field have been made, has ensured a steady input of new technology and outstanding people.

Cambridge's products can cost anything from about £30,000 for the simplest electron microscope to £500,000 for the latest electron-beam microfabricators for making "chips".

In 1975 Metals Research and Scientific and Medical Instruments merged in a government-backed plan to give Britain one major maker of electron-beam instruments. Scientific and Medical Instruments, previously an offshoot of George Kent, was in fact the former Cambridge Instrument Company. The NEB acknowledged the main mission of the new group by restoring the name.

But the plan failed. Dr. Michael Cole, the former Cambridge metallurgist who originally founded Metals Research, provided scientific services for scientists, and who has been chairman of Cambridge Instrument since 1976, offers three reasons. All concern the electron microscope side of the business, source of losses of about £2m last year.

One is that the production cost data available when the group was formed proved highly misleading. Electron microscopes are complex instruments which take about a year to assemble and test. Although the group has been selling upwards of 100 a year, of half-a-dozen different models, it was

underpricing them by 30-50 per cent. "An engineer's dream—but no appreciation of market needs or of value engineering," is how Dr. Cole sums up the products he inherited. Not for a year after the merger did he discover that the true costs of making microscopes were "dramatically higher."

In addition the international market has been severely competitive since the merger, with Japan and the U.S. the principal rivals. Dr. Cole quotes the example of Japan Electron Optics Laboratories (JEOL), which two years ago launched its "high-growth" programme with the stated object of driving out the competition. Early this year JEOL admitted that this object had failed. But such tactics as "lending" customers its electron microscopes for a year before billing them had seen off some rivals and had been highly destructive of Cambridge's efforts to sell even underpriced instruments.

Dr. Cole's third reason is the growing strength of the pound which he claims has "torpedoed" any hope of raising the price of its electron microscopes to a profitable level.

Electron microscopes, as the diagram shows, accounted for only one-quarter of the turnover of Cambridge Instrument last year. The balance comes from four divisions all in the black, according to the NEB. The biggest is medical instruments, with sales of the same order as microscopes and a manufacturing base and reasonably strong market position in the U.S. Its forte is electronic instruments that monitor the progress of very sick patients, a market with a 10 per cent annual growth rate.

Another is the image analyser, a highly sophisticated instrument developed originally by Metals Research. Kierie Cambridge claims a world lead both in sales and technology. It has about one-third of the world market. It is developing a new, microprocessor-based instrument.

Another high-technology activity inherited from Metals Research is crystal-pulling, a technique used to refine the more exotic kinds of semiconductor material used for specialty "chips". Finally there is the micro-fabricator, a direct descendant of the electron microscope, developed since the merger into another product in which the company is at the leading edge of a high-growth market.

At first sight the five divisions of Cambridge seem to have one thing in common—high technology. The group is spending about 8 per cent of turnover on research and development. In fact, the situation is much more complex, a fact which has led in part to its difficulties. The five businesses are at significantly different stages of maturity. The medical instrument and electron microscope activities while still requiring R and D support, are relatively stable, mature busi-



Dr. Terry Gooding: getting Cambridge on a plane—warts and all.

nesses. Microfabricators, on the other hand, are right at the start of their life-cycle, very hungry for cash. Image analysers and crystal pullers fall between the other two divisions in the business cycle.

This was a problem the Department of Industry failed to take account of in planning the merger, and in persuading Dr. Cole of Metals Research to head the new group. His reputation has been built at the highly creative end of the innovation business, in close contact with scientists. He was not at all happy with the management problems of a more mature business, much less one where the capital intensive and marketing side had already run out of control.

Recent annual reports reflect what seems to have been a near breakdown of management systems in 1976 and 1977. A variety of different production control systems under the same factory roof had a serious impact on what is a working capital intensive business, and thus on manufacturing costs.

The Department and the NEB must share responsibility for allowing these problems to develop. And management's task cannot have been made easier by the way that public funds have been dribbled into the business. At regular intervals Cambridge has been given just about enough to keep it going more or less in its original shape—but not enough to set it firmly on its feet. As things turned out, that probably represented the worst of both worlds.

In government circles, at least, the dominant reason for trying to salvage Cambridge is its potential performance in the silicon chip industry. Britain is trying to build for the 1980s. The microfabricator is generally acknowledged to be a key production tool of the future for this industry.

The NEB says that Cambridge is the only British company of any size in the business of supplying the infrastructure of the semiconductor industry. Currently its sales are confined to the research market. But if the technology can be developed far enough, the NEB believes that world sales in ten years' time could be perhaps 50 times the size of the present market.

The crystal-pulling technology, too, could have an important role, and also the image analyser as a production-line system for quality control.

Fortunately, at Cambridge the electron-beam microfabricator has been kept separate from electron microscopes in a division which, to quote Dr. Cole, is exciting, profitable and with sales of about £4.5m last year. The company has already delivered about ten, mostly to

the U.S., worth £350,000-£500,000 apiece. It has orders in hand for another dozen. Its main competitor (part of Perkin Elmer in the U.S.) has a machine which costs twice as much and is selling in similar numbers.

The Government has financed four "pre-production" orders for Cambridge microfabricators: one each for the research centres of GEC, Plessey and the Post Office, and the fourth for a national laboratory. This last machine is the heart of an electron-beam facility commissioned this summer at the Rutherford Laboratory of the Science Research Council.

Mr. Tony Eggington, a senior executive of the council acknowledges that "we've been nervous about the financial state of Cambridge Instrument". The reason is that his council, in partnership with the Department of Industry, has been planning to make a heavy commitment to the group.

In July the council and the Department approved a £500,000 project to develop a second-generation microfabricator. The aim, says Dr. David Thomas, in charge of the Rutherford's new laboratory, is to increase the speed of the current Cambridge machine by a factor between 10 and 100—a formidable task.

## Cost reduction programme

In mid-1978, the NEB held a major review of Cambridge's activities. Cost reduction programmes were started on the electron microscope business and a new managing director was hired from EMI. Given a fair wind, the NEB thinks that the company might still have been able to turn itself around under its own steam.

But hopes of steady progress were wrecked by the rise in sterling. By the time the new managing director arrived in March, Cambridge's financial problems were too great to be solved in an orderly fashion.

The NEB had three choices. It could have allowed Cambridge to go under, and hope that its key businesses would be bought from the receiver by successful newcomers. But, according to the NEB, that would have been taking too great a risk with assets of national importance.

Another possibility was an orderly dismemberment under the NEB's own management. That would have meant keeping the various activities going until satisfactory buyers could be found. But it was decided that such an operation could not be managed effectively in the time available. There were also political arguments against the NEB taking on such an open ended

commitment just after the general election.

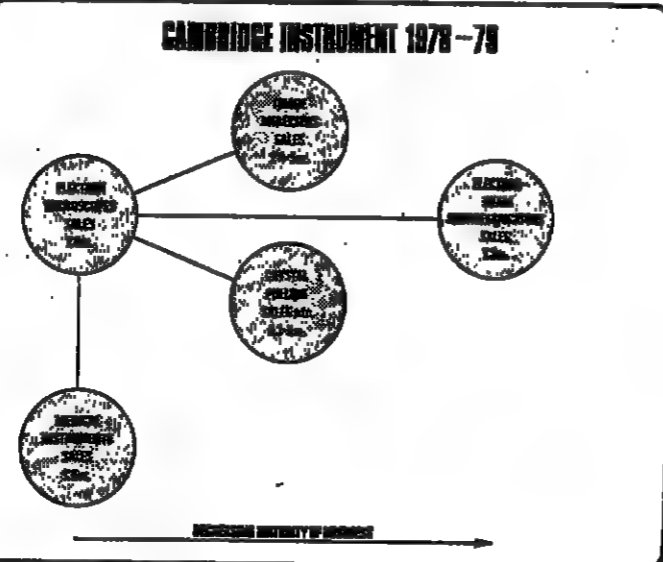
So last May and June the NEB was searching for an outside solution. The success of the package that is now being assembled rests almost entirely on the management abilities of Dr. Terence Gooding, 45, a British-born U.S. citizen who had a successful track record in turning round and developing international instrument businesses.

Dr. Gooding is being handed Cambridge—warts and all—on a plate. The NEB is putting in another £84m of equity, and then passing control over to Dr. Gooding largely in return for new voting and preferred shares. The new company will have £1.2m of new capital subscribed by Dr. Gooding, the ICFI and Midland Bank. At the end of the day, Dr. Gooding will be putting up £500,000 and getting nearly 75 per cent of the votes in a business which at that stage will have a very respectable looking balance sheet. If he can succeed in turning the company round, his rewards should be considerable.

Until the beginning of this year, Dr. Gooding was president of Kratos, a smallish business (annual sales of U.S.\$34m) with a growth record and a multinational spread of interests. Its products include electron microscopes, and over three years ago it acquired AEI Scientific Apparatus in Manchester, which it has turned into a profitable operation. Dr. Gooding says that Kratos held talks with Cambridge itself some time ago, but they came to nothing. Cambridge has the two basic ingredients for success—fine products and people. He also believes that the UK offers the best labour market in the world for high technology instrumentation. "You have a stable and well educated workforce. Properly managed and motivated, there is no question that the UK can produce these products."

He says the problems with Cambridge, in common with other UK businesses, are that its manufacturing costs are too high and its international marketing effort is poor. The new Cambridge company will continue to make electron microscopes, at least for the medium term. But the scale of this activity will be reduced, and the product line will be broadened by forming marketing associations with other manufacturers around the world.

Dr. Gooding believes that it will take about three years to turn the company around. By the end of that period, the target return on capital employed will be 25 per cent. Only if that is realised, will Cambridge's agencies during the last ten years prove to have been worthwhile.



## MEN AND MATTERS

## Well above the poverty line

That financial phenomenon, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, provided all the trappings of affluence for Michael Manley, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, when he lectured in London yesterday on the needs of the developing world. At the Park Lane Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, 350 guests drank claret while Manley's socialist message ricocheted from the chandeliers. The occasion was the inaugural lecture of the Third World Foundation, a body which BCCI keeps in funds. Manley was in London after visits to Iraq and Libya on behalf of his hard-pressed island. A good sprinkling of socialists of various styles was at the luncheon, to hear him renounce international big business. Ex-premier Olaf Palme was over from Sweden, alongside James Callaghan and Dame Judith Hart.

Before the speeches, Sir Harold Wilson was exchanging Caribbean anecdotes with Vida Mendes, a Jamaican celebrity in a starting headress.

The only well known Tory politician present was Lord Alport (a Tory emeritus, perhaps); he called Manley "one of the wisest statesmen in the Third World." Several speakers verbally tugged their forelocks in the direction of BCCI. To demonstrate that more than about the creation of a Third World Prize (\$100,000 a year) was announced. Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretariat secretary-general, told the audience he was honoured to have been chosen as chairman of the selection committee.

My neighbour at the luncheon was Sheryl Handler, president of a Massachusetts economic consultancy named Cruz. She had flown to London for the luncheon, her organisation having close links with the Third World Foundation. She said that TWF was starting an

economic magazine in the New Year, called South-South—a title making its stance plain in relation to the "North-South dialogue." The magazine will circulate in the U.S. and Europe. It will doubtless be able to rely upon some advertisements from the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Although it was such a socialist occasion (even the menu began with *ouf a la Russe*), urgent dealings with the Conservatives were at hand. Later in the day, Manley was going to see Mrs. Thatcher to discuss the Rhodesia talks. At lunch he was lecturing the converted (an African diplomat cried "Right on!" at a fitting moment in his speech). But a Jamaican diplomat to whom I spoke felt he might encounter a more critical audience at Number Ten.

## Winning streak

It may be some solace to taxpayers to learn that the Concorde has scored one victory—albeit a costly one—in its contest with subsonic aircraft. Dan Colussy, Pan Am president, has told Congress in Washington: "The profitability of our morning New York-London flight has been destroyed by British Airways' Concorde flights, with the Concordes given to BA by its Government."

## Faster gloom

The Government will hardly thank him for it, but computer enthusiast Tony Bird claims to have speeded up what he considers the slow and inadequate official economic statistics. The recession, according to these, is already upon us. Bird, a stockbroker with T. C. Coombs, recently started to compile a monthly index which distils—supposedly—all relevant monthly indicators and produces an up-to-date Gross Domestic Product.

Each monthly indicator is used as a proxy for one of the GDP components, with an appropriate weighting. The only problem, says Bird, is stockpiling, for which no figure is available. But he thinks he can guess this fairly accurately using relative movements in GDP expenditure and output.

His index for September is 108.1 and has fallen each month from the June high of 112.2. "The economy is clearly going nowhere fast," he says, while warning—rather like his counterparts in the civil service—against reading too much into one month's figures.

## Wired up

"Realism and Responsibility" should be consistently applied," a Tory MP, remarked a cryptic mystery in the Tory conference in Blackpool. To the mortification of some he had dispensed with the usual lunch for the party faithful from his new constituency, North Cornwall (he displaced John Pardoe in May).

His latest application of the two Rs is electronic. Neale tells me proudly that he is now "wired for sound." It is not merely a question of common-sense garden bleeps. Neale's bleepers have a memory box so they can take messages when, perforce, they have to be switched off. He can be bleeped anywhere in London.

Neale considers Realism and Responsibility have their place in his car as well. Since he travels between 900 and 1,000 miles a week between London, the West Country, and his home in Milton Keynes, the car is wired up, too. "My 25-30 hours a week in a car shouldn't just be dead time," he says.

Just in case the car telephone is engaged, Neale has also hired a public relations company in Milton Keynes. As far as he knows he is the only MP to do this. Is it really necessary? The former mayor of Milton Keynes points again to his workload, not only as a perpetual traveller but as a legal and business

consultant: "By the time you have finished briefing TV companies, and so on, two hours are gone," he says. "I'm working to a tight schedule."

## Nice people

Like Nelson's Column, Mrs. Whitehouse is usually photographed with people standing beside her; the veteran campaigner for clean living, elected by no one and responsible to no one, has become that kind of national institution. She was naturally present—"I am a regular"—at yesterday's annual Women of the Year gathering at the Savoy, an affair which attracted the usual bizarre assortment of Girl Guide officials, dancers, jockeys, darts players and so on.

The unity of massed womanhood was put under some strain by the singular attention lavished on a surprisingly demure "new wave" songstress—one of the principal guests—called Polly Styrene, against which Carol Channing, star of "Hello Dolly" and an older hand at self-publicity even than Mrs. Whitehouse, found it hard to compete.

In no time at all, Ms. Styrene had been placed alongside Mrs. Whitehouse for photographs with, for good measure, Jackie Collins, the novelist. A trifle thrown when informed of the identity of the two, Mrs. Whitehouse quickly recovered. "They're like me," she said, smiling in that way of hers, "they're very nice."

## Selling point

The news that authors' lending rights are to be rewarded from 1982 comes not a moment too soon. I see that Blackwell's list of new books for the autumn includes an updated *Writers and Artists' Yearbook*, with the special attraction of "new reference articles on the Social Security Scheme."

Observer

## Giscard runs into trouble

PRESIDENT Giscard d'Estaing has suddenly run into a rough patch in what looked like a smooth run-up to his re-election campaign. It is true that the Presidential elections are not due until early 1981, but in French politics such events have a long lead time. By now, most French political developments have to be seen in that perspective. So M. Giscard d'Estaing cannot have welcomed the recent excitement in Paris over allegations that he received gifts of expensive diamonds from ex-Central African Emperor Bokassa, even if it looks as if the affair may well blow over. The incident came at a time when there were a number of other reasons for the President to feel a little uncomfortable.

In the National Assembly, the Gaullist RPR, under the leadership of the rumbustious M. Jacques Chirac, has taken its dissatisfaction with the Government's economic policies to the point of voting it down on the budget. The trade unions are mounting a series of strikes that could lead to a "hot autumn" of confrontation. Meanwhile, M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, has been unwell and unable to cope with these challenges.

Compromise But it is too early to conclude that M. Giscard d'Estaing is in real trouble. The wave of strikes may be gathering pace, but the atmosphere is not yet really tense. The budget problem can probably be settled following M. Barre's return this week. One way would be to negotiate a compromise with the Gaullists to allow the Government's revenue proposals to go through the Assembly in modified form. If that fails, the Government can always resort to the device of making the budget a matter of confidence. The Gaullists have said they would not go as far as bringing the Government down on the issue.

The country's economy is not as healthy as it might be. In common with most Western countries, growth is expected to slow again next year—probably to around 2.5 per cent. Inflation, now running at an annual rate of around 11 per cent, is high by French standards, and the

French public is extremely sensitive to rising prices. The trade account is in deficit and unemployment remains high. M. Barre has manifestly not achieved his aim of curing the French economy of all its ills in the three years he set himself in August 1976.

But France's problems are no worse than those of most of its EEC partners. M. Barre was rash to set himself a three-year deadline. In that sort of timescale there are bound to be unpredictable developments—and the latest oil price rise duly disrupted his calculations. Given that, he has not done too badly. The latest figures show that inflation is down slightly, as is unemployment. Exports, particularly of cars and capital goods, have been thriving, and, on current account, the balance of payments will probably produce a respectable surplus at the end of the year. The franc has been reasonably stable.

## Sniping

At the same time, it is far from clear that M. Chirac is promoting his presidential chances by his constant sniping at the Government. There is no evidence so far that his attacks on M. Giscard d'Estaing and his policies have paid off in electoral terms. One reason may well be that M. Chirac has not produced a convincing set of alternative policies. His tactics have been largely negative and his accusations not always justified. It is easy in the current economic climate to attack almost any Government—for failing to promote investment and stimulate the economy. In fact, M. Barre has probably gone about as far as he could in this direction without sending inflation through the roof.

All the same, M. Barre's illness must increase the chances that M. Giscard d'Estaing will appoint a new Prime Minister to accompany him into the election campaign. M. Barre is too identified with austerity to be a big electoral asset. But perhaps the most encouraging aspect, from M. Giscard d'Estaing's point of view, is that no convincing challenger for his office has yet appeared, whether from the right or the left.

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Helping our friends

# Rising stars in world machine tools

BY HAZEL DUFFY

EXHIBITING IS expensive. Yamazaki, a big Japanese manufacturer, spent around £230,000 at the recent European machine tool exhibition which has just closed in Milan. This covers rental of the site, transportation of machines and the supply of skilled personnel on the stand to answer the constant stream of inquiries and demonstrate the machines.

Yamazaki had one of the largest displays (11 machines in all) in Milan. The company was in no doubt that the money was well spent. In spite of the fact that it exhibited at Chicago last year, and Tokyo has its own international machine tool exhibition next year, the company takes the attitude that to sell in Europe, it is necessary to take the products to a place where potential customers can see them in operation.

In recent years, Japan has significantly expanded production of machine tools, and particularly numerically controlled (NC) lathes and machining centres. Official figures put last year's production of NC lathes at \$275m, which compares with \$30m in 1972, while machining centres were valued at \$149m against \$24m in 1972.

Japan's penetration of international machine tool markets has taken the more conservative manufacturers by surprise. Japanese expertise in industry is associated with high volume products, and machine tools, even of the standard type, have not been seen as suitable for this type of production.

But by concentrating on particular products for which the Japanese correctly forecast a growth market, they have been able to produce in volume. In Japan, unlike in the other major producer countries, the industry is concentrated into a small number of large companies, some having connections with others in the electronics sector. All these factors have enabled them to produce

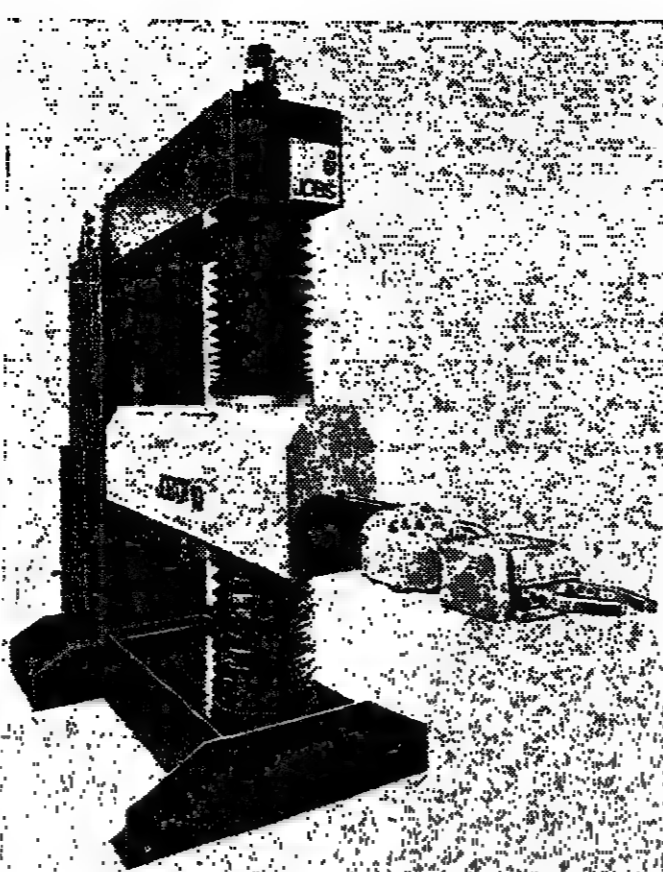
at very competitive prices. The American industry, in fact, started an investigation on the grounds that the Japanese were dumping in the U.S. market, but the action is not in abeyance because of legal difficulties.

The American machine tool industry enjoyed record levels of net new orders and production last year. Activity has remained strong in the first half of 1979, domestic orders being 33.6 per cent higher than 1978, and export orders 50.2 per cent up. The order backlog has continued to rise because the industry has insufficient capacity to meet the growth in demand for capital goods from the automotive and aerospace industries in particular.

With this order book in mind, it was not perhaps surprising that American companies were not much in evidence at Milan. As a percentage of total production, exports from the U.S. have been averaging only around 10 per cent—much lower than the other major producers in the world.

Demand for machine tools worldwide has grown slowly but steadily over the years. In much of the developed world, however, the industry has contracted. This apparent paradox is explained by the emergence of machine tool industries in developing world, particularly Korea, Spain, Brazil and the Comoros countries, while the Chinese, who were exhibiting at an international machine tool exhibition for the first time in Milan, served as a reminder that the list of entrants to the international machine tool industry is by no means completed.

The Chinese machines on show, which included some NC tools (the electronic controls supplied by Western companies), attracted a good deal of interest. Opinion in the industry, however, is that it will be some years before the



The Italian-made Job'ot 10 industrial robot. Programming is carried out on the spot by means of a self-teaching device.

Chinese are in a position to compete with the most sophisticated machine tools. In production terms, the Chinese rank 11th in the world league. Exports are low, but the fact that they displayed in Milan indicates that they intend to build up their international trade in machine tools.

The Chinese seemed well pleased with their decision to exhibit in Milan and are considering a request to show at Tokyo next year. For more

hardened exhibitors at international shows, the number of exhibitors has become a problem. Manufacturers say it is not a question of whether they can afford to show, but can they afford not to show?

CECIMO, an organisation embracing the industry in 13 countries in Western Europe, was responsible for Milan, which was the third in a series of European exhibitions with worldwide participation. In addition to these CECIMO ex-

hibitions (the next will be at Hanover in 1981), there are major international gatherings of the machine tool industry in Chicago, Paris, Milan (the Italian industry acting as hosts), Tokyo and the UK at regular intervals.

Only 40 or so British companies exhibited at Milan against 900 from Italy, 285 from Germany and 135 from Switzerland. The "absentees" among the larger companies such as the 600 group, Alfred Herbert, and KTM. The reason for this rather poor showing was that Milan came too close to the Machine Tool Trades Association's own exhibition which takes place at Birmingham in the spring.

Everybody with an interest in the British industry is hoping that this event will be the opportunity for companies to unveil their newest products, and it is expected that there will be a good showing of direct and computerised NC tools. Mach 80 is expected to attract 50 per cent of the association includes distributors as well as manufacturers, a good number of foreign machines will be on show.

The British machine tool industry is unusually difficult to figure at present. Official figures are showing a steep decline in home orders during the first half of this year, but many companies say they have fairly good order books for both home and export markets. The U.S. in particular, has been a source of orders for the past 18 months. It should continue to be a good market, but the strong pound makes competitive pricing more difficult.

Even with Birmingham on the horizon, it is questionable whether so many British companies can afford to stay away from Milan. The most recent machine tool trade figures between Italy and the

UK, for example, show that the UK exported machines to the value of £5.9m to Italy last year, while similar imports from Italy totalled £13.7m.

The growth of the Italian industry has been one of the success stories in its industrial development. Italy ranks fifth in the world league of producers, and exported 55 per cent of production in 1978. An upturn in demand from domestic customers during the first half of 1979 will probably have reduced the export percentage to nearer 50 per cent. The Italian industry is characterised by a large number of small companies, and in the past this structure has proved a definite strength. Some 20 per cent of production is in NC tool, compared with 12.15 per cent in the UK from more than 100 companies and its technological progress was evident for all to see.

The Italian machine tool industry's trade association, UCIMU, is far from complacent about the future. In spite of the fact that the highly fragmented structure of the industry in Italy will gradually lessen its export effectiveness, UCIMU prefers to preach co-operative marketing and research rather than restructuring companies. Italian companies saw Milan in the same way that British companies ought to be viewing Birmingham, i.e. as an opportunity to unveil their newest developments to the world. One stand attracting much attention was that of Comau, part of the Fiat group, showing the robot welding process being used by Fiat (which has also been sold recently to Volvo), automated handling systems and other high technology applications. Several manufacturers were showing industrial robots (one by an Italian company christened the Job'ot), some with continuous handling controls. Some of these robots can be used for

loading and unloading machines. Other interesting developments included computerised programming centres which make possible an economic programming of NC machines and machining centres; a new series of vertical and inclined bed computerised NC lathes; NC milling machines simultaneously machining right and left hand workpieces; and microprocessor grinding machines. Several manufacturers were showing chip removal machines, regarded as potentially one of the most innovative processes.

## Risky solution

The machine tool industry enjoys a highly developed level of international trading. With the exceptions of the U.S. and the Soviet Union, which have large markets of their own, the major producer countries export a large part of their production.

As the developing countries (including in Western Europe the Spanish industry) become more inclined to build up their own machine tool industries, Europe will find it increasingly difficult to hang on to its markets. The solution is obviously to concentrate more on technological advance and high value-added products. But this is an expensive and risky solution, and some companies are not sufficiently profitable to fund the research requirement.

Machine tool sales depend on the level of capital investment. In many industries, spending on machine tools represents between a third and a half of total expenditure on capital plant and equipment. The industry's biggest single customer is the automotive industry. Most producers have already announced, or are expected shortly to announce,

that they will be undertaking big spending programmes for the introduction of more efficient, cleaner and quieter vehicles.

This spending bout by automotive manufacturers, in the U.S., Europe and Japan, will prove the lifeline for the machine tool industry in the coming years.

But competition is intense, and machine tool companies can no longer expect customers to come to them. They must go out and sell, and exhibitions like Milan are part of that marketing process. The British taxpayer may be relieved to hear that Alfred Herbert decided that it could not afford the £300,000 it was quoted for space alone at Milan when it is committed to a big showing at Birmingham in six months' time, but did it lose orders as a result?

It is a moot point whether potential buyers actually make decisions at exhibitions. The organisers are always swift to put out impressive figures on the number of orders taken, but these are viewed with some scepticism within the industry. What exhibitions do give, however, is the opportunity to compare the equipment of different manufacturers. One Belgian plant manager, for example, spent two days looking at what Milan had to offer in machining centres. He saw the Japanese and German exhibits, and compared prices. He had, he said, tried to find a British company he knew about, but they were not exhibiting. He was going back to discuss what he had seen with his Board and expected to place an order in about two weeks' time.

It was a conversation which made it easy to understand why some manufacturers feel they just cannot afford not to exhibit at these expensive shows.

## Way forward for BL

From the Chairman, BL Car Dealer Council.

Sir,—Mr. Bescoy (October 26) is absolutely right to state that BL's future will be decided in the marketplace, the only way BL can solve its problems is by selling its products.

The company's problems are well known and everybody has their favourite version of what is wrong with BL, but can I outline the positive signs which encourage dealers with regard to BL's future. The management team, headed by Sir Michael Edwards, is in a confident fighting mood, it understands the size of the problem and dealers are agreed that the company is fielding the strongest management team for many years which is dedicated to the company's success.

The company's cars have always excelled in fuel economy; today we have got a fuel-conscious market that is moving to BL's strength. The new models, some of which are almost with us, will bring to the market fuel-efficient cars equipped and built to the most advanced standards.

Our daily exposure to customers in our showrooms convinces us that the public want BL to succeed and readily appreciate the value to this country of a profitable, efficient BL. The company has a place in the 1980s; it has the product and the management needed to be competitive, to sell cars, and become profitable. As a business community we should not talk of the disastrous effects of a BL failure, but rather the countrywide benefits of a successful profitable company.

The way forward for BL is through new model introductions, industrial peace, and consistent production. Management need not desert the support and encouragement of the BL workforce, the British buying public, and this support is needed right now.

R. Carbott,  
Rocar Group, Parkside House,  
Somerset Road, Huddersfield.

## Helping our friends

From Julian Amery MP

Sir,—Your leading article "Carter attacks a friend" (October 25) seems needlessly defeatist.

You say that by sending arms to the King of Morocco, President Carter "may well be backing a loser." This is of course a matter of judgment; but surely you must agree that the President is even more likely to have a loser on his hands if nothing is done to match the steady flow of modern Soviet arms to the Polisario through Algeria and Libya.

You go on to say that the decision will "no doubt antagonise Algeria." No doubt the U.S. are running some economic risk but their connection with Algeria was never very secure in price or volume. How important is it compared to the risk of losing a proven friend of the West whose country is situated on the Atlantic and commands one side of the Straits of Gibraltar?

You suggest that the American decision "could undermine the position of President Sadat of Egypt." Is not this a trifle presumptuous? It is, after all, well known that President Sadat has been supporting King Hassan and urging the Ameri-

## Letters to the Editor

cans to do so as well. Are you sure you judge his interests better than the desert itself?

There are signs that American opinion is beginning to recover from the traumatic consequences of the Vietnam war. It is sad at such a time to see a newspaper as important as your own advocating what can only be called a policy of appeasing the adversaries of the West without suggesting any alternative means of helping our friends.

Julian Amery,  
House of Commons, SW1.

## Labour is dying

From Mr. J. Roberts

Sir,—Malcolm Rutherford "The Joker in Labour's disarrayed pack" (October 26) is right to note that Labour's vicious battles of the 1950s were much worse than its recent troubles, and did not stop the party winning elections.

But this neglects three points: Conservative lost only narrowly in 1964 and 1974—Labour has only ever won one straight fight and that was 1945. Labour had over 1m members in the 1950s but has only a quarter of that number now. It cannot go back to its roots to either heal its wounds or stop the advance of the property-owning middle class. Marxists in its constituency parties, Labour's popular support is now so low that the party is not far from demonstrating the "black hole effect" of the British electoral system. In a three party fight, there is a threshold (say 25-30 per cent of the vote) below which you are left moaning down in the darkness.

The Liberal Party demonstrated this best in 1974 with over half the votes of the Tories but only 5 per cent their number of seats. But the Liberal Party also showed the threshold effect going down in the 1918 election when one of the great parties was cut from having had a majority of 200 in the House of Commons in 1905 to only 168 seats in the 1918 Parliament.

If you remember that the Boundary Commission is presently cutting another 19 seats away from Labour Mrs. Thatcher will be defending a 90 seat not just 71 seat majority over Labour at the 1983-84 General Election. Even with a few dozen Tory seats lost to Liberals, Labour has little hope of getting back for ten years.

We have every chance to watch Labour's membership fall still further and its distance from its great capital of votes increase.

Jeffery Roberts,  
2 Albion Terrace,  
Hoggerston Road, E.S.

## Gas supplies to industry

From the Director-General, Chemical Industries Association

Sir,—There are some important aspects of Ray Daffer's report (October 25) where the real situation is more serious than is stated. Recent renewals of British Gas Corporation interruptible contracts allow for interruptions of up to 90 days (rather than a maximum of six weeks) and a senior British Gas executive has stated recently that in some areas future contracts would allow for interruptions of up to 120 days, with an actual level of interruption near this level if the coming winter is severe.

In such circumstances the reported British Gas statement

## Letters to the Editor

that "alternative fuel stocks are high" is irrelevant, since few if any chemical companies have available, or can obtain, 90-120 days' storage capacity for oil fuels. In any case, oil distributors have been widely reported as warning that oil supplies will be inadequate in a severe winter to meet "spot" requirements to make good gas deficiencies during prolonged interruptions.

Even more disturbing is the suggestion that British Gas is seeking to avoid its existing obligations to industry under the Energy Act, 1973, and the preceding Gas Act, 1972, give massive monopoly type rights to the corporation, and in such circumstances it would be outrageous if industrial companies were not only, as at present, deprived of new supplies, but found themselves losing such little statutory protection for existing supplies of gas—British national resource—as they presently enjoy.

While on a "jam tomorrow" basis, we are glad to learn from the letter (same issue) of Mr. Vinegrad, of BGCL, of the success of the corporation's research into the production of synthetic natural gas (SNG). It must be realised that such processes merely convert primary fuels into a Gas Corporation product at a conversion efficiency rather lower than that at which industry could utilise the original fuel directly. In any case, when industry needs a reliable and economic gas supply, now, rather than at some ill-defined time in the distant future.

Martin E. Trowbridge,  
Chemical Industries Association,  
Albion House,  
93, Albert Embankment, SE1.

## The price of MG cars

From Mr. P. Davies

Sir,—Some of your readers are obviously confused by the apparent low prices charged for MG cars in the U.S. May I offer some clarification on this matter.

During March this year, at the start of the main sales season, the "port of entry" list price for an MGB convertible was £6,550 excluding sales tax. (Incidentally, no MGB GTs are sold in the U.S.) On top of this basic price a dealer preparation fee of, say, £150 should be added. The comparable UK list price during March was £3,415 excluding tax (i.e., £3,565 including tax). At the beginning of this year the pound was hovering around \$2, so the UK basic price was equivalent to \$6,930—as against the U.S. price of \$6,700. So the main "subsidy" was the cost of shipping the cars across the Atlantic.

Later in the year the UK list price was raised by 6 per cent (to £3,620), while the U.S. price was raised by 10 per cent (to about \$7,200). The value of sterling itself, however, had also risen by at least 10 per cent, so that the American price was then nearly 10 per cent below the comparable UK price.

It has been suggested by Mr. Lubbock (October 18) that BL should simply raise the price of the MG until a profit is made. Unfortunately, there are other, more modern, sports cars available in the U.S.—such as the 120 mph Mazda RX7 at \$7,195, or the Fiat X1/9 at \$7,115 (March, 1979, list prices). Both of these cars have better performance and handling than the MGB. More recently, the Mazda price has just been increased to \$7,995, although demand is such that some American dealers are still offering a premium of around

\$800 to obtain this desirable car—which sells in the UK at over £3,500 (including tax). The UK list price of the MGB has also just been increased (to £3,892 excluding tax). Even at an exchange rate of \$2.10 to the pound a direct conversion into dollars would make the MGB slightly more expensive than the Mazda—and we still haven't allowed for the cost of shipping across the Atlantic.

May I point out that on a recent trip to the American West Coast I noticed a number of new Mazda RX7s on the road, plus a few Fiat X1/9s—but no new MGBs. Judging by the small number of old MGBs that I saw, this model is now regarded as suitable only as a student's runabout.

P. G. Davies,  
59, Chfye Way, Warwick.

## Speculative orgy

From Mr. B. Taylor

Sir,—I consider the letter from Mr. Robert C. Beckman (October 22) a most interesting concept. The number of people, however, who have "geared themselves up" to the extent that Mr. Beckman suggests through domestic housing I would have thought was relatively insignificant.

The speculation in "collectables" is confined to two types of investor: the Fun Money investor—let him enjoy himself, and the Funk investor—with whom I am afraid I have little sympathy. He is not interested in the economy of the country, he has either chosen to reside in, adopt or migrate from.

The dangers I see looming ahead are in the property investment market where negative yields are the norm (even without index-linking). This is where I see the danger signals and I think the pension funds, insurance companies and more specifically the property bond investors ought to heed a warning signal.

Brian M. Taylor,  
The Old Vicarage, Church End,  
Pottersbury, Northants.

## True and fair accounts

From Mr. R. Tunstall

Sir,—If your correspondent (October 8) seeks to verify his telephone bill he may be surprised to learn that the Post Office will not be bound by meters installed at subscribers' premises.

Although I have no connection with the Post Office past or present, in my opinion the reason is because meters can be temporarily disconnected. Thus a third party with access to the telephone and intent upon using it without the subscriber's knowledge, could disconnect the private meter, make his calls (which would be recorded on the exchange meter) and then reconnect the meter. Later, when the subscriber compared his bill with the private meter he would quite genuinely believe he had been overcharged. While I accept that mechanical and human errors will occur, I have never doubted the integrity of the Post Office.

During the past 18 months I have listed each dialled call from my telephone and determined the number of metered units from the call's duration, the distance over which it was made and the time of day. The units charged on my last four bills (before the strike) corresponded exactly with my list in one quarter, while for each of

the other three quarters the number was one less than my own count.

Keith Tunstall,  
39, Grove Street,  
Leamington Spa, Warwick.

## Metered 'phone calls

From Mr. D. Stickland

Sir,—Let me challenge telephone customers—challenge Mr. Young (October 12): While "every telephone customer has a personal 'phone meter located at the exchange" I do not seem to have free access to mine. Has the practice of concealing the accounting record been tested in the courts?

I rent a clockmeter as described in last week's DLE 640. It helps me decrease my costs, as it highlights the rate of spending in expensive periods. Surely this also decreases total system costs? Most cheap chips, with System X, enhance these savings! At present, the clockmeter is reliable enough to detect charging faults.

Mr. Donovan (October 16) shares my surprise about Mr. Young's final claim: won't the frequent undercharging fault "cost" the system a "revenue loss"? Surely Post Office profit requirements dictate that a portion of the unit charge (presently 5p) is allocated to recover this "revenue loss"? Isn't this surcharge carried by all customers who make calls? Is there any material undercharging? When the system overcharges, aren't a small number of customers affected in an unacceptably large way? Don Stickland,  
13, Welby Close,  
Maidenhead, Berks.

## Overseas students

From the Secretary, Association of Certified Accountants

Sir,—We share the fears of the committee of vice-chancellors and principals, whose chairman, Sir Alec Morrison, the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, has recently warned that further increases in fees charged to overseas students would deter them from attending United Kingdom Universities, polytechnics and colleges. Not only will such students be deterred from seeking UK education and qualifications, but their absence may well reduce the number of courses, and places, on offer to UK students.

In our own field, the six chartered bodies have between them some 120,000 students. Over half of this total are registered students of this association, and many thousands of these are overseas students. Increasingly, accountancy students obtain at least part of their formal training through Universities, polytechnics and colleges of commerce, etc., and while this is not a prerequisite to qualification, the contribution of these institutions to the future generation of accountants, both at home and overseas, should be growing, not diminishing.

This association has, for many years now, adhered to the principle of non-discrimination between home and overseas students in its annual fees and examination charges. That is, in a small way, part of our contribution to the development of the profession internationally. The loss of accountancy courses and places in colleges in this country will damage far more than just the colleges themselves.

A. A. Dudman,  
39, Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

## Today's Events

UK: Chairman Hua Gnofeng, the Chinese leader, meets Mr. John Nott, Trade Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, Labour Party leader, and Mr. David Steel, Liberal Party leader.

British Institute of Management asks Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to introduce an economic forum.

Public inquiry opens into coal-mining plans in Vale of Belvoir. Overseas: EEC Agriculture Council and Foreign Affairs Council meet in Luxembourg.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

House of Commons: European Bill, second reading. Overseas: Bill, second reading. Overseas: Bill, second reading.

## Today's Events

vate business, 7 pm. Motion on the Ministry of Overseas Development (Dissolution) Order.

House of Lords: Motions to approve Legal Aid (Financial Conditions) (No. 2) Regulations 1979, and Legal Advice and Assistance (Financial Conditions) (No. 3) Regulations 1979. Gaming Amendment Bill, committee stage. Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill, report stage. Motions to approve Fruiting Plum Tree (Planting Grants) Scheme 1979, Plum Material and Clearance Grants Scheme 1979, and European Communities (De-

nation of Treaties) (Inter-

national Wheat Agreement) Order 1979. Debate on the increase in the use of drugs revealed by Misuse of Drugs statistics.

Commons Select Committee: Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. Witnesses: Commission for Local Administration in England. (Room 7, 8 pm).

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

CBI industrial trends survey for October.

COMPANY MEETINGS

Decca, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, EC, 12. Jamaica Sugar Estates, 7 West George Street, Glasgow, 12. Palmerston Investment Trust, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, EC, 12.

## COST EFFECTIVE FINANCING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL LONDON

Programme

09.30 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

09.40 Mr. T. Teichman, Vice President, Credit Suisse; Adviser, Finanz AG London Ltd.

09.40-10.05 "MEANS AND TECHNIQUES OF RAISING INTERNATIONAL FINANCE"

Corporate requirements for international finance differ widely and so do the sources and ways of meeting these needs. The options range from government finance to internally generated liquidity, and some sophisticated approaches, such as project finance, to simple collections—how effective and flexible are these various arrangements?

Mr. R.G.F. Coninx, Vice President, The First National Bank of Chicago.

11.15-12.30 "THE ROLE OF THE EURO-CURRENCY MARKET IN TRADE FINANCE"

Refinancing of letters of credit.

International factoring.

Cross border leasing.

Direct bank-to-bank buyer credit.

Forfeiting.

Syndicated loans.

The Euro-bond, Swiss bond and US bond markets.

Mr. T. Teichman, Vice President, Credit Suisse; Adviser, Finanz AG London Ltd.

14.00-15.15 "MINIMISING COSTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE AND CURRENCY MARKETS"

Components of costs and their minimisation.

Hidden costs.

Examples of cost minimisation financings: Government subsidised financings, offshore finance/trading companies, multi-currency lines to tap Euro and domestic markets.

Mr. J.B. Lockhart III, Asst. Treasurer, Gulf Oil Company, Eastern Hemisphere.

15.45-17.00 "CHOICE OF CURRENCY IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE"

Present pattern of currency usage in trade, distinguishing inter-regional and world-wide trade, and manufactured goods from primary commodities.

The advantages of "third party" currencies in trade, the changing role of the Deutsche Mark and US Dollar as "third party" currencies.

The key importance of domestic inflation performance of different currencies in choice of denomination for long-term financing.

How far is currency choice distorted by official credit agencies?

Mr. Brendan Brown, Currency Economist, Amer Bank Limited.

17.00 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Registration Form

Please return to the Conference Manager, Institute for International Research, 70 Warren Street, London W1P 5PA. Tel. 01-583-2663. Tr. 263594.

Please register the following delegate for COST EFFECTIVE FINANCING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE. Payment for £115 + 15% VAT = £132.25 is required with your registration. Fees include lunch and refreshments.

Should you subsequently be unable to attend, full refund will be made if you cancel in writing by Dec 31. Non-refundable delegates are always accepted at no extra charge.

Name (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

## Companies and Markets

# Mr. Ling withdraws writ against Belhaven

BY ARNOLD KRANSORFF

Mr. Roy Ling, a former chairman of Belhaven Brewery Group who was dismissed while on an overseas business trip in July, has withdrawn a writ against the company for wrongful dismissal.

At the same time Belhaven has announced details of an accommodation with Mr. Ling's Ashpoint plastic packaging company which was sold to Belhaven last December and subsequently became the centre of a dispute with the Board.

These developments were revealed yesterday in a circular to shareholders in which the directors estimate a second quarter loss of £22,000 after a first quarter profit of £140,000.

The circular also accompanies the annual report and accounts for the April 1, 1979 year, which has been heavily qualified by auditors Stoy Hayward and Co. The arrangement with Ashpoint includes an agreement whereby Ashpoint pays a £25,000 management fee for the period to April 1, 1979 and receives an interest-free loan of £27,500. Belhaven may at any time in the next two years call on Ashpoint to declare a dividend (and/or a management charge), in which event Belhaven will make an interest-free loan to Ashpoint of an amount 10 per cent greater.

This overcomes the restriction that Belhaven cannot compel Ashpoint to declare a dividend, says the company. Belhaven believes, "the arrangements now made to be in the best interests of the group." It is confident that the group will now work together harmoniously.

The directors' estimate of first half profits of £118,000, which is not based on management accounts, includes head office overhead expenses totalling £185,000, of which some £140,000 are termed "wholly exceptional costs."

The directors say that they have not yet given consideration to an interim dividend.

In his statement, Mr. P. M. E. Rowland, chairman, warns that profits for the full year will bear substantial interest charges and some exceptionally high costs of administration incurred mainly in the first half. In the last five months considerable economies will be operative, he says.

Present indications are that the Board should be able to recommend a dividend next summer at least equal to that for the current year, he adds.

In their report the auditors say that certain properties were sold with a brewery tie on terms which allowed part of the consideration to remain on loans payable by instalments without interest. The profit or loss on disposal of these properties is included in extraordinary items.

If the principal value placed on these loans had been based on the discounted present value at April 1, 1979 the loans and the extraordinary profits would have been reduced by about £100,000. Stoy Hayward state.

Because of the significance of this, "we are unable to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the results."

As at April 1, 1979 total indebtedness was £30.8m (£1.5m) against net worth of £4.9m. Loans have since risen to £22.3m at September 30, 1979.

Five of the directors, including Mr. Rowland and Mr. Ling, came up for re-election at the annual meeting on November 23. A sub-committee composed of three of 14 institutional shareholders has been formed. It is headed by Mr. Roger Spicer, a fund manager for Lloyd's Register of Shipping. "It is our intention to work amicably with the board for the future of the company," he said yesterday.

**SHARE STAKES**  
Caledonia Investments — Prudential Corporation Group of Companies now holds 975,000 ordinary (5.83 per cent).  
Textured Jersey — Mr. E. E. Knobel, director, has disposed of 30,000 ordinary shares.  
Associated Barges Group — Mr. P. Asquith, director, disposed of 180,837 ordinary shares.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Lex examines the influences at work in the bond and money markets since exchange controls have been abolished; also the Glaxo accounts and puts the pharmaceutical group's current cost statement under the microscope; and comments on GEC's bid for Aversy where the offer looks set to drag on. Elsewhere the BL dealer, Wadham Stringer, has received a bid approach and its shares have been suspended. Gresham House Estates returned from suspension following the disclosure of a stake in Quest Automation. Belhaven announced a steep second quarter slide and heavily qualified accounts.

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## Gallaher £10.4m rise so far

THIRD QUARTER profits of Gallaher, tobacco, cigarette subsidiary of American Brands of the U.S., rose from £15.3m to £16.6m and pushed the figure for the nine months ended September 30, 1979 to £46.3m, compared with £34.8m.

Profit for the whole of 1978 was a record £51m.

Sales, excluding VAT or its equivalent, for the three months of £412.4m (£380.2m) lifted the nine months' figure to £1,197.9m against £1,127.1m, which included £30.3m (£28.6m) from domestic and overseas tobacco.

Trading profits for nine months were £47.9m (£37.4m), of which tobacco contributed £34.5m against £28.6m.

Profit for the period was struck after interest of £2.7m (£2.6m), and depreciation of £9.7m compared with £8.5m.

Another traditional life company has entered the linked life assurance field. Yesterday the Standard Life Assurance Company, the largest life company in Scotland, launched its unlinked single premium contract—the Capital Investment Bond.

This scheme is the usual single premium linked bond and Standard Life has offered six funds for linking covering all major investment situations—equity fund, property fund,

international fund, fixed interest fund, cash fund and a managed fund which is a mix of the other funds. There are facilities to switch between funds with no charge for the first switch in any 12-month period.

The bond offers maximum flexibility by dividing the contract into separate policies up to a maximum number of 20. The proportion held in each fund is identical in each policy. On partial realisation, individual policies can be dealt with

separately thus minimising higher rate tax liability. The minimum investment is £1,000 and there is a share exchange scheme. The charges are an initial 5 per cent with 1 per cent annual renewal.

The company intends to offer a full range of linked contracts. This launch is to be followed by a regular savings plan and in addition it intends to market pension contracts for executives and the self-employed. But the company, in first launching a single premium investment, is seeking policyholders with existing contracts that have just or are about to mature. And it is aiming at investors with tax rebates paid this month.

James Scott in the red

Losses of £780,000 at subsidiary James Scott (Electrical Transmission) have produced a deficit of £75,000 in the first half at James Scott Engineering Group compared to a taxable profit last time of £554,000.

The electrical transmission division made a profit in the corresponding period of £75,000. At the year end, profits of the group, a subsidiary of William Press, were £536,000 (£1.68m loss).

Turnover in the six months slipped from £26.9m to £20.3m and there is a tax credit of £162,000 (£408,000 charge).

Attributable profit fell £62,000 to £87,000 and stated earnings per 25p share are down to 1.7p (3.2p). There is again no dividend.

Aberfoyle moves into loss

Reporting a loss of £150,988 for the year ended July 31, 1979, the directors of Aberfoyle Plantations say there will be a delay in the publication of the company's accounts for that period. In the previous year, the company, which owns tea estates in Rhodesia, achieved a turnaround from a pre-tax loss of £78,827 to a £254,532 profit. No dividends have been paid since 1964.

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## UK COMPANY NEWS

# John Crowther loss for first six months

FOLLOWING losses in the second half of last year, John Crowther Group, woolen textile maker, ran into further trouble in the first six months of 1979 and incurred a loss of £55,168 compared with a £122,438 profit in the same period last year.

The directors say that results have been affected by production being in excess of shipments which results in a deferment of profit relating to stocks on order.

The third quarter has been in line with budgeted sales but the second half is being affected by the adverse conditions in the clothing and retail trade.

Turnover for the first half amounted to £3.1m compared with £2.78m. Depreciation charged was £73,033 (£72,481) but no charge to tax arises except for ACT.

As a result of the current conditions, high interest rates and the stronger pound having an effect on the company's domestic and export business, the factories are running at a lower rate than last year with some presently working on short time, the directors say.

## Gresham House ahead £40,000 in first half

CC 23 71/8 GRESHAM CO PGE Profits before tax of the Gresham House Estate Company, investment trust, rose by £40,000 to £211,000 for the first half of 1979.

The net interim dividend is maintained at 1.4p per 25p share—last year's total was 3.5p on £461,000 profits.

Another traditional life company has entered the linked life assurance field. Yesterday the Standard Life Assurance Company, the largest life company in Scotland, launched its unlinked single premium contract—the Capital Investment Bond.

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## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corr. Total last year	Total last year
London Atlantic ...int.	1.75	Dec. 31	1.5	3.6
Lunava (Clen) Tea Int.	5	Dec. 7	—	10
Transvaal Coors, ...	58	Jan. 3	75	135
Gresham House Inv Int.	1.4	—	1.4	3.3

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.  
\* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ South African cents throughout.

## Sterling Credit outlook

AT THE AGM of Sterling Credit Group, the chairman said that the second half of the current year would produce results more in line with those of the corresponding period last year, but full year figures would be seriously depressed and the disparity in results for each half year was likely to continue.

For the 12 months to March 31, 1979, pre-tax profits were £205,000; the half year surplus being £135,000.

## Midterm rise for Stormgard

After higher interest received of £12,553 against £10,563, pre-tax profits of Stormgard rose from £13,506 to £20,539 in the first half of 1979.

Turnover of the investment company fell from £874,326 to £442,565.

After tax of £9,688 (£5,715) earnings per 10p share are shown to have risen from 0.34p to 0.68p. There is again no interim dividend.

For the whole of 1978, the taxable surplus was £21,000 lower at £29,000.

And the net interim dividend is raised to 1.75p (1.5p), last year's final being 2.1p. Earnings per 25p share are shown as 2.24p (1.83p).

Gross revenue for the period increased from £351,552 to £413,112.

James Scott in the red

Losses of £780,000 at subsidiary James Scott (Electrical Transmission) have produced a deficit of £75,000 in the first half at James Scott Engineering Group compared to a taxable profit last time of £554,000.

The electrical transmission division made a profit in the corresponding period of £75,000. At the year end, profits of the group, a subsidiary of William Press, were £536,000 (£1.68m loss).

Turnover in the six months slipped from £26.9m to £20.3m and there is a tax credit of £162,000 (£408,000 charge).

Attributable profit fell £62,000 to £87,000 and stated earnings per 25p share are down to 1.7p (3.2p). There is again no dividend.

Aberfoyle moves into loss

Reporting a loss of £150,988 for the year ended July 31, 1979, the directors of Aberfoyle Plantations say there will be a delay in the publication of the company's accounts for that period. In the previous year, the company, which owns tea estates in Rhodesia, achieved a turnaround from a pre-tax loss of £78,827 to a £254,532 profit. No dividends have been paid since 1964.

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# Glaxo expands overseas

# The City's idea of the building industry.

## A bunch of cowboys.

One of the bright white hopes of the City was recently heard to declare that the old notion of the building industry as a bunch of cowboys was thoroughly outmoded these days. Mind you, he added, there's no smoke without fire.

Too true.

Barratt would be the first to admit that some building companies richly deserve their reputations.

Some don't.

Barratt would like to present some objective facts and figures so that you can judge their true worth and potential without prejudice.

## Solid as an oak.

Barratt have just celebrated their 21st birthday.

And 1979 sees us at number 9 in Management Today's Ten Year Profitability League (October issue), in the whole of British Industry (turnover 1979-£170m).

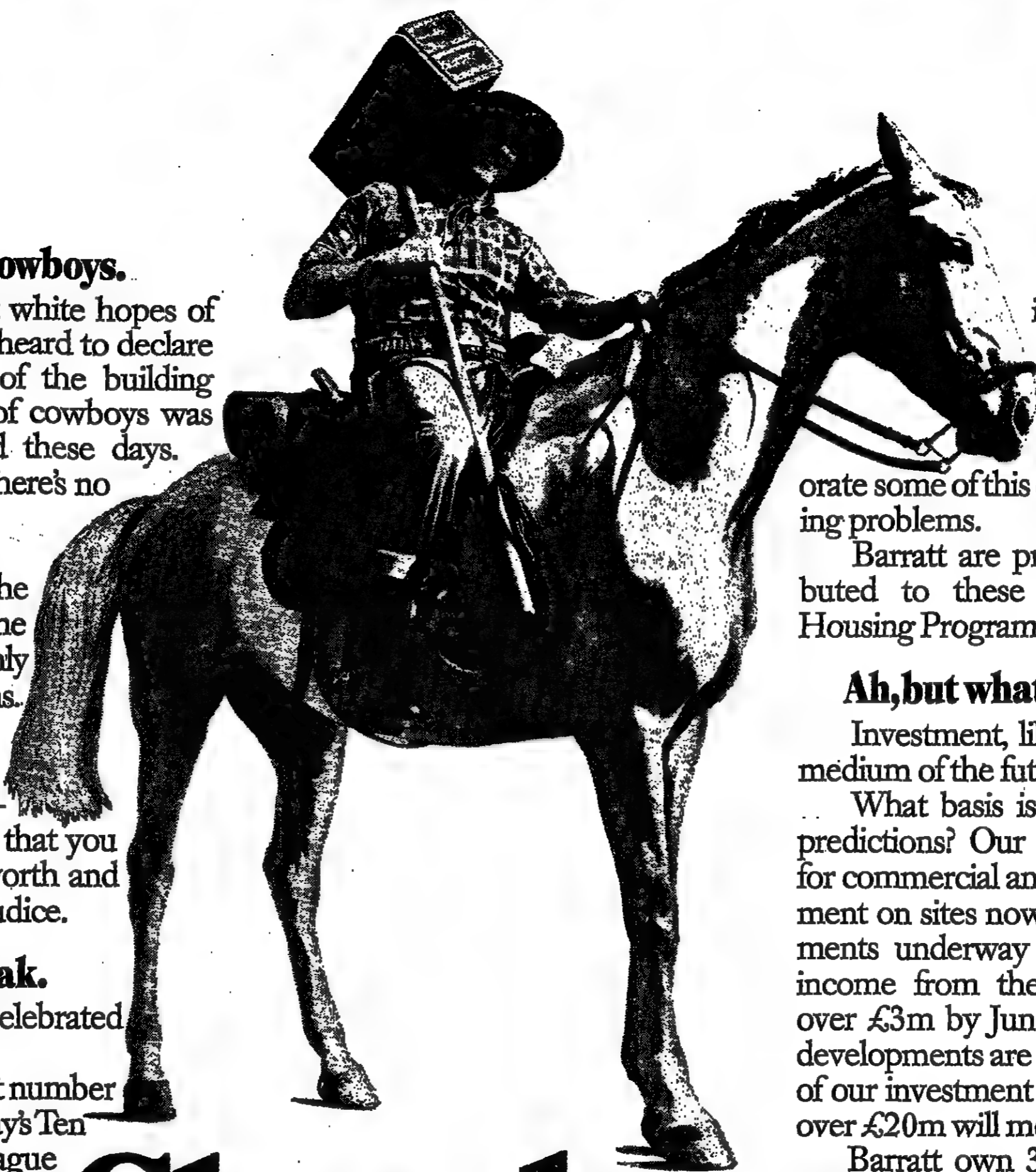
This isn't some here-today-gone-tomorrow phenomenon.

Barratt's growth has been sure and steady, even in 1973-4, when the market was depressed and other building companies that had rocketed in the 60s, crash-landed.

The graph spells out the story in terms of hard cash.

One reason for our success is that where other building companies have centralised their operation, Barratt have stuck to their policy of local involvement, with thirty operating subsidiaries, twenty-two in private housing, five in manufacturing and general contracting and three in property development.

The fact is that if you're building



Barratt's work on inner city re-housing programmes in areas such as Liverpool and Glasgow has done much to ameliorate some of this country's worst housing problems.

Barratt are proud to have contributed to these socially vital Joint Housing Programmes.

## Ah, but what of the future?

Investment, like clairvoyance, is a medium of the future.

What basis is there for confident predictions? Our current programme for commercial and industrial development on sites now owned or developments underway will increase rental income from the present £1.2m to over £3m by June 1981. When these developments are completed the value of our investment properties presently over £20m will more than double.

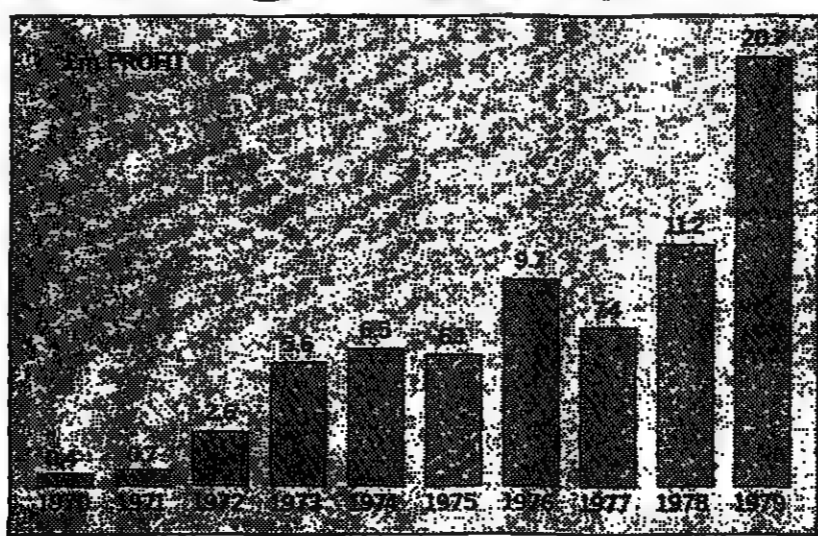
Barratt own 33,000 plots of high quality, developable land to keep us busy for the next 3 years. Home ownership will undoubtedly increase beyond its present level of 54% (in some European countries home-ownership now stands at 70%+).

Barratt are ideally placed to cater to demand, be it for £11,000 houses or £110,000 houses, in Southampton or the Shetland Islands on 350 developments in the U.K.

## The myth bites the dust.

All of this will perhaps only confirm what you have suspected for some time: that Barratt is the kind of rock-solid investment that you can confidently trust for the future.

If you're still on the lookout for cowboys we recommend you try the late night movies.



in Chester, it's a good idea to be in Chester.

## The confidence of local authorities.

We have an impressive history of working partnerships with Local Authorities.



**Barratt**  
Developments Limited

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In the Matter of

PENN CENTRAL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY,

Debtor.

In Proceedings for the

Reorganization of a

Railroad

No. 70-347

## NOTICE OF EXCHANGE AND AVAILABILITY OF NEW SECURITIES OF THE PENN CENTRAL CORPORATION

Pursuant to Orders entered by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Reorganization Court), the Plan of Reorganization (Plan) for Penn Central Transportation Company became effective on October 24, 1978, at which time the name of Penn Central Transportation Company was changed to The Penn Central Corporation. First Pennsylvania Bank N.A., through its agent, Fund/Plan Services, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been named Exchange Agent for the purpose of distributing cash and securities of The Penn Central Corporation to the claimants entitled thereto pursuant to the Plan. At the same time, the Reorganization Court directed that no distribution be made to holders of certain bonds which were the subject of appeals. Upon final resolution of each such appeal, the Reorganization Court has authorized the commencement of distributions.

### BONDS NOW ELIGIBLE TO BE EXCHANGED

The Reorganization Court has now authorized the distribution of cash and securities to holders of the following bonds:

New York Central and Hudson River Railroad  
Michigan Central Collateral 3% Bonds due  
February 1, 1980 (Michigan Central Collateral bonds)

Holders of such Michigan Central Collateral bonds will, upon surrender of their bonds, be entitled to receive cash and securities of The Penn Central Corporation in accordance with the Plan. The Penn Central Corporation requested The New York Stock Exchange to suspend trading in these bonds before the opening of trading on October 25, 1978.

### EXCHANGE PROCEDURES

A Letter of Transmittal with instructions for surrendering such Michigan Central Collateral bonds in exchange for cash and securities of The Penn Central Corporation has been mailed to each holder as of October 25, 1978, whose address was known. These documents were not mailed to holders whose addresses are unknown, or whose identities are not known because their securities are in bearer form. If you own any of these bonds and you have not received a Letter of Transmittal, you may obtain a copy by completing the form below and mailing it to the Exchange Agent.

### SPECIAL NOTICE CONCERNING TIMING OF EXCHANGE

For the reason described in this paragraph, it is important to surrender Michigan Central Collateral bonds so that they are in the hands of the Exchange Agent no later than November 14, 1979. One of the securities of The Penn Central Corporation which holders of Michigan Central Collateral bonds are entitled to receive pursuant to the Plan is Series A General Mortgage Bonds (A Bonds). Certain of the A Bonds distributable to holders of such Michigan Central Collateral bonds may already have been selected by lot for redemption as of December 31, 1978. In order to be eligible to receive cash in lieu of any A Bonds selected for redemption, Michigan Central Collateral bonds together with a properly completed Letter of Transmittal, must be received by the Exchange Agent no later than the close of business on November 14, 1978. Michigan Central Collateral bonds received after that time will receive A Bonds which will be eligible only for the redemption scheduled for December 31, 1978, and subsequent redemptions, but not for the redemption as of December 31, 1978.

First Pennsylvania Bank N.A.  
c/o Fund/Plan Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8717  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Please send a Letter of Transmittal with instructions in respect to the Plan of Reorganization for Penn Central Transportation Company, Debtor, to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE PRINT)  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Bond \_\_\_\_\_

## MINING NEWS

# Falconbridge Nickel's strong recovery

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

YET ANOTHER North American group reports a dramatic recovery in earnings. This time it is Canada's second biggest producer of nickel, Falconbridge Nickel Mines.

Earnings for the three months to September 30 amount to C\$26.3m (E10.6m), or C\$8 per share, compared with a loss of \$8.9m in the same quarter of last year.

The latest earnings bring the nine-months' total to C\$82.5m, or C\$15.72 per share, compared with a loss of C\$7.4m in the same period of 1978. They are higher than the company has earned in any previous full year of its existence, reports John Sogutich from Toronto.

In the latest nine-months Falconbridge has enjoyed an increase of C\$49.3m from the integrated nickel operations (Sudbury, Ontario, and Norway) plus a rise of C\$26.6m from other controlled companies. In addition there has been a C\$15m credit from deferred income taxes.

Mr. Marsh A. Cooper, president and managing director, said that the principal reasons for the higher earnings in nickel operations were increased metal selling prices, a weaker Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar, and substantial increases in the quantity of nickel and copper sales.

Sales in the integrated nickel operations were 69m lbs (30.5m lbs last year), 27.3m lbs copper (20.1m lbs) and 865,000 lbs cobalt (579,000 lbs). Ferro-nickel sales were up to 32.3m lbs (27.2m lbs).

Falconbridge Dominicana operated at a substantially reduced loss. The group's inventory of nickel in all forms declined to 23.4m lbs at September 30 from 36.5m lbs a year earlier. Falconbridge's nine-month cash flow was C\$128.5m compared with C\$22.5m in the same period of 1978.

### CHARTER LOSES ON REMOVAL OF CONTROLS

Following the removal of UK exchange controls, Charter Consolidated is still of the opinion that the company's recently announced reconstruction scheme is to its advantage and advises shareholders to vote accordingly.

It is confirmed that, as a result of the ending of the investment dollar premium, the buy-back price of \$4.65 for the Minerals and Resources Corporation (Minero) shares to be given to Charter holders will now fall, in sterling terms, to the equivalent of about 221p per Minero share compared with an earlier anticipated 236p.

Similarly, the previously estimated cash proceeds receivable by Charter under the scheme of £37.5m will now be reduced to about £29.2m. Total net assets of Charter after implementation of

Intense market activity pushing the shares of Consolidated Gold Fields to a 1979 high yesterday prompted the group formally to deny that it had received any bid approach.

"We have no major shareholders as far as we are aware—that is anybody who has over five per cent," a spokesman added.

The shares moved between 286p and 315p yesterday, closing at 310p for a net gain of 23p. The rise was the most spectacular in a period which has seen a strong upwards trend in the price.

The recent high level of trading has spilled over into the option market, while dealing in Gold Fields shares in Johannesburg were said to have been three times greater in volume than normal.

Activity was spurred by a spate of bid rumours. In Johannesburg, the same most commonly linked with Gold Fields has been Charter Consolidated, following its reorganization plans, while London speculation favoured the Royal Dutch Shell oil group. Suggestions that General Mining, the South African house backed by Afrimor interests, is building a strategic stake have been common to both centres.

The 147.57m issued shares—now valued in the market at £45m—in Gold Fields are widely dispersed, but 90 per cent of them are thought to be in the hands of UK shareholders. However, a parcel of more than 2m shares is believed to have passed from London to Zurich about a fortnight ago.

The scheme will now be worth approximately 277p per share compared with 291p before the lifting of exchange controls. Charter shares were 3p up at 165p yesterday.

Meanwhile, Dehhold (Canada) announces that agreement has been reached to amalgamate with Anselm (Canada) and Anglo American Corporation of Canada, effective October 31, 1979. The amalgamation will result in an expansion of the asset base of the amalgamated company, the principal investments of which will be an approximately 45 per cent interest in Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, a 28 per cent interest in Francana Oil and Gas of Calgary. The name of the amalgamated company will be Anselm American Corporation of Canada.

Third quarter net earnings of Hudson amount to C\$3.9m (£1.6m), making C\$21.7m for the

first nine months of this year compared with only C\$3.7m for the same period of 1978. However, the past quarter's results are considered disappointing because of base-metal production shortfalls and scheduled smelter closings.

### Amax finances reopening of gold mine

ALLSTATE EXPLORATION of Sydney is to link with Amax, the diversified U.S. group, in a joint venture to re-open the Tasmanian gold mine at Beaconsfield, near Launceston.

An announcement launching the joint venture yesterday follows the updating of a 1975 feasibility study and ends Allstate's lengthy search for finance.

Amax is buying a 50.1 per cent interest in the project by the expenditure of A\$3m (£1.57m) on the rehabilitation of the mine. This involves water clearance, shaft repair, underground drilling and mine development.

Allstate's share of the venture at Tasmania will be 48.2 per cent. The balance of 3.7 per cent is held by Tricentral, the UK industrial and natural resources group.

The deposit is small, but high grade. Consultants calculated the probable ore reserves at a depth of between 380 and 560 metres at 224,000 tonnes, grading 22.5 gms of gold. Allstate said. There are possible reserves of a further 337,000 tonnes, grading 18.5 gms of gold.

In the first year of operation, Allstate expects production to be 70,000 tonnes of ore, building up to 100,000 tonnes thereafter. But no date was given for the mine to come on stream. Allstate shares in London yesterday were 27p, up 2p.

### Earnings climb at Yellowknife

Despite higher operating costs, Giant Yellowknife Mines, the largest of the Canadian gold producers, has raised its nine months' profit by more than a third, reports John Sogutich from Toronto.

Net earnings in the nine months to September were C\$4.3m (£1.7m) or C\$1.01 a share, compared with just under C\$3m, or 66 cents a share in the first three quarters of 1978.

## OIL AND GAS

# Japan enters Beaufort Sea

JAPAN'S Overseas Petroleum Corporation has moved in on the promising Beaufort Sea oil and gas scene through the purchase for C\$50m of 3.5 per cent of the 375 per cent interest held by Columbia Gas Development of Canada in Beaufort Sea exploration rights previously acquired by Columbia from Dome Petroleum.

According to a report in Canada's Northern Miner, it was known for some time that Columbia Gas, which held a 1.875 per cent interest in Dome's Kapanar oil discovery, was preparing to dispose of all or part of its Beaufort Sea interests.

The report goes on to say that the Japan National Oil Corporation is keen to resume discussions with Dome with a view to entering a deal similar to the one negotiated by Overseas Petroleum and Columbia Gas.

Previous negotiations between Dome and Japanese commercial interests on possible Japanese participation in the Beaufort Sea operations were suspended earlier this year pending the outcome of drilling tests then under way by BP.

The Japanese interest in Dome's Beaufort Sea search—Dome holds around 50 per cent of exploration rights in the area—intensified following the announcement by Dome that its Kapanar M13 well indicated an oil find of "important commercial significance." Dome added that the well was capable of sustained production of more than 12,000 barrels a day from a 200 ft productive zone at 11,500 ft.

The Columbia Gas-Overseas Petroleum agreement is conditional on Dome relinquishing its pre-emption right to Columbia's interests.

The Chilean units of America's Atlantic Richfield and Amerasia Hess Corporation are to begin exploratory drilling late this month offshore the coast of Chile.

The two companies, Arco Petroleum Chile SA as operator and Amerasia Hess Petroleum Chile SA, each hold a 50 per cent interest in a contract signed in December 1977 with Empresa Nacional de Petroleo (ENAP), Chile's national oil company.

The first well, Lancy No. 1, will be located approximately 30 miles west of Chiloe Island, 60 miles offshore the mainland in 470 feet of water. The well, with a target depth of 7,500 feet, will be the first in the ENAP programme operating with foreign contractors.

Geological and geophysical studies and surveys of the area were conducted previously. Drilling will be carried out by the drillship Danwood Ice, leased from J. L. Offshore Drilling.

British Petroleum Development is to participate in a consortium with Interpet Resources Corporation and Pacific Rim Petroleum Corporation, both of the Philippines, as operator for a drilling programme in the Mindoro area according to the Philippine Energy Ministry.

BP, with a 60 per cent participating interest, will finance drilling of Mindoro 1, programmed to reach 8,000 feet, and increase its stake to 70 per cent by drilling two more wells at its own expense. The consortium's area covers about 200,000 hectares of onshore and offshore prospects.

Canada's Western Mines has negotiated an agreement with Braccan Resources whereby Western can earn a 40 per cent interest to the depth drilled in oil and gas rights on 20 sections of land some 26 miles north of Lloydminster on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. A section is 640 acres.

The agreement will require Western to spend about C\$5m for drilling in 1979 and an additional estimated C\$750,000 next year for gathering lines and development wells depending on this year's drilling success.

# McKechie Brothers

—a large group of industrial companies  
mainly in non-ferrous metal and  
engineering fields operating internationally.

## our activities

United Kingdom  
manufacturers of rods, sections  
and ingots in copper and brass;  
chemicals based on copper;  
aluminium powder, paste and flake;  
ceramic fibres; builders' and domestic  
hardware; moulded and extruded plastic  
products; cable glands and components  
for the electrical industry; metal  
windows and doors, steel and aluminium  
tube, steel conduit, generators, radiators  
for space heating; stockholding and  
metal merchanting; mould making; sheet  
metal and plate fabrication; process  
engineering.

South Africa  
rods, sections, ingots, sheet,  
strip, foil and tubes in  
copper and brass; wire in  
copper, brass and aluminium; sheet, strip,  
wire and ingots in zinc;  
stockholding and metal  
merchanting.

New Zealand  
rods, sections, ingots and  
tubes in copper and brass;  
continuous cast bronze bars;  
extrusions and ingots in  
aluminium.

Australia  
plastic extrusions and  
mouldings.

### COMPARATIVE RESULTS

Year ended 31 July	1978	1979
	£000	£000
Profit before tax and metal account	15,116	12,658
Profit after tax	10,305	8,139
Profit after extraordinary items	9,821	7,777
Ordinary dividend per share	2,989	2,333
	6.93p	5.53p
Capital employed	80,227	87,466

### Extracts from Chairman's Review

We have achieved record profits despite adverse effects on overseas earnings of a strong pound. Profits have increased by over 19% on 1978. The board recommend an increase in the net dividend of 25%.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

Demand was stronger and better utilisation of capacity gave improved profits.

#### OVERSEAS

The economic climate in South Africa improved, and companies in the Macdon group produced increased profits. Our investments in New Zealand are doing well.

#### PROSPECTS

Many of our U.K. companies were affected by the national engineering strikes, and in present trading conditions lost ground will be difficult to make up. Improvement in South Africa should continue, and Australasia is budgeting for a better year.

We are confident of putting up as good a performance as external circumstances will allow.

Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to Shareholders on 21 November 1979



**McKechie Brothers Limited**

LEIGHWOOD ROAD, ALDINGHAM, WALSALY WSG 3LS

# LET US EXPAND ON THE BUSINESS ADVANTAGES OF WALES.

Wales is well placed to help the company looking to expand. It's the nearest assisted area to the major markets of London, the South East, the Midlands and continental Europe.

Which means that incoming and expanding industry may qualify for useful Government help.

The Welsh Development Agency has sites in many areas

where you can build a factory or we may be able to provide one. We are currently building factories from 1500sq. ft. to 50,000sq. ft. Many of them allow for at least 100% expansion.

Factory rents in Wales are attractive. In some areas they could be about half what you might pay in London or the South East. You may qualify for a rent-free period.

We may be able to invest directly in your project. We can certainly advise you on other sources of funds.

Communications to and from Wales are good. With fast road and rail links to the major markets. London, for example, is less than two hours by train from South Wales.

Skilled labour is also readily available much of which has experience in high technology industry.

Once you count the advantages of working and living in such a pleasant environment, they add up to a lot of reasons why you should consider Wales. Post the coupon and we'll tell you more.

### Welsh Development Agency

To: Welsh Development Agency, Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, CF37 5UT. Tel: Treforest (044 385) 2666. Please tell me more about industrial opportunities in Wales.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

FT30/10

MOVE TO WALES. IT WORKS.

مكتبات الأصيل

## BIDS AND DEALS

## GEC extends—offer is 'increasingly attractive'

General Electric Company has extended its offer for Aveyry, the eighth machine company, despite the low level of acceptance.

Instead, it has extended the bid to November 23, arguing that the general downturn in share prices "confirms our conviction that our offer of 245p per share is not only attractive but has become increasingly so."

GEC had received acceptances only 9 per cent by last Friday morning, the first closing date. Around half of these are believed to have come from institutions. "We are encouraged that the bulk of shareholders have accepted the Board's advice," said Aveyry's chairman, Mr. Charles Hale, who has strongly recommended acceptance. He is confident at the present time.

Market sources pointed out that GEC could still put up the bid early next month if it wished to, though the group's advisers, S. G. Warburg, yesterday reaffirmed that they regarded the present terms as fair enough.

Reactions among Aveyry's major shareholders to the bid extension in the absence of a higher offer are mixed. Britannic Assurance, which holds nearly 8 per cent, said it was still not interested. The Kuwait Investment Co., with nearly 7 per cent, is taking a wait-and-see attitude. GEC had already allowed its bid to run a further nine days in the original closing date. But Aveyry could make a bid forecast. But Aveyry has said that profit predictions are unnecessary and hard to make because of the impact of a recent engineering dispute. The insistence of GEC on staying to the bid terms left

Aveyry's shares 2p lower at 237p. GEC, however, added 5p to reach 331p.

See L25

## Mystery approach to Wadham

Wadham Stringer, the car, truck and van distributor, has received an approach from an unnamed party which could lead to an offer for the group. Ahead of an expected announcement, the group asked for its shares to be suspended.

The suspension price was 42p which valued the group at £15.1m. Wadham declined to give any clue as to who the bidder might be but hoped an announcement might be forthcoming.

Toner, Kemsley and Millbourn (Holdings), the international finance and investment group with large automotive interests was mentioned most as a possible bidder. The group said yesterday that stock market rumour mentioning them in connection with the Wadham talks was not "too ridiculous" but declined to comment further.

Wadham derives most of its profit from car distribution and servicing, mainly Leyland and Rolls-Royce but with some Ford and Vauxhall operations. It is also involved in commercial vehicle distribution as well as boat building, body-building and agricultural equipment distribution. For 1978, Wadham reported pre-tax profits of £4.01m compared with £3.24m, on turnover of £139m (£141.5m). Stated

assets per share were 77p. Half-year profits to June 30, 1979, were £2.3m (£2.5m).

The latest move follows Lomho's agreed £22m offer for Dutton-Forsyth, the BL and Rolls-Royce distributor. But speculation yesterday that Lomho might again be the mystery suitor met with the comment from a Lomho spokesman that "there is no truth whatsoever in these rumours."

TKM is losing the BMW car import concession in the UK at the beginning of next year. In its latest report and accounts, Tozer said it would suffer a "substantial loss of revenue when the import concession is withdrawn," although it would continue to have a considerable involvement in the retail and personal export business of BMW.

**MORE SUPPORT FOR CRANFORDIAN**  
Midland Montagu Industrial Finance, development capital subsidiary of Midland Bank, has increased its interest in Cranfordian.

As a result, MMIF has subscribed for £75,000 new participating preference shares and agreed to make available a further £75,000 by way of medium-term loan. MMIF's original investment in Cranfordian was made in March, 1977, when it took up 26 per cent of the ordinary capital.

Apart from making investments in the retail sector of the pharmacy industry, Cranfordian provides financial and tax advice and management accounting services. Mr. Peter Cox, managing director of Cranfordian, says that the additional funds made available will enable the company to maintain its current rapid rate of expansion.

## Movitex battle intensifies

With the annual meeting of Movitex arranged for November 5, the battle between the board and two engineers seeking board membership has intensified.

The board claims that the two men, Mr. David Macdonald and Mr. Christopher von Meister, are seeking to control the company without making a bid for it, although the Takeover Panel has found no grounds for obliging the men to make a bid.

Yesterday the two men wrote to shareholders outlining both the history of the share sales and purchases over the past months and the trading and accounting problems of the company. They claim that the board urgently needs strengthening and also needs new areas into which to expand.

They say that they have put forward specific ideas to Mr. R. W. Bulfield, chairman of Movitex, but have failed to achieve anything in the absence of board membership.

The letter seeks proxy votes from shareholders to support their board nominations and those of Mr. Robert Knight, a company chairman and Mr. John Redgrave, chairman of Water Lawrence who would become non-executive directors.

to receive the share and cash alternative.

It is not intended to refer the acquisition to the Monopolies Commission.

The offer has been declared unconditional and remains open. Dealings in the new H. and C. shares will commence tomorrow for deferred settlement on November 20.

**ST. GEORGE'S LAUNDRY**  
Shareholders of St. George's Laundry, which is the subject of both a full and a partial offer from Provincial Laundries, are reminded that acceptances of a partial offer are irrevocable and cannot be withdrawn.

The Board of St. George's, which controls more than 50 per cent of the equity, is still consulting its advisers, Close Brothers. A statement is promised by next Monday and meanwhile shareholders are asked to do nothing with their shares.

**APS/DEBENTURE**  
Following receipt of sufficient acceptances to its offer for the ordinary and preference shares in the Debenture Corporation, notices have been despatched by A.P.S. Securities, wholly-owned by The Airways Pension Scheme, for the acquisition of the outstanding stock not yet transferred to it.

Additionally, Debenture Corporation has made arrangements with the trustees of its three outstanding debenture stocks for their redemption. On June 27, the British Linen Bank, acting on behalf of A.P.S. announced that the offer had become unconditional.

## GKN discusses Darlaston works sale

Armstrong Equipment is holding discussions with Guest Keen and Neithelands concerning the possible acquisition of GKN's bolt works at Darlaston.

The West Midlands works has been a loss-maker for several years and had been scheduled for closure by GKN.

The Armstrong takeover, which is estimated to cost between £2m and £3m, would be another step along the road of selective acquisitions by the company, particularly in the fastening sector.

GKN has recently sold its Fifth Cleveland fastenings subsidiary to Armstrong which, in turn, sold its 125-strong Autoparts components outlets to GKN.

There are around 800 jobs at stake in the GKN bolt and nut group, but a takeover by Armstrong would not necessarily mean that all of these jobs would be saved.

## CHARTER CONSOLIDATED LIMITED

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

## SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

## PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF THE COMPANY

Shareholders were informed by press announcement dated 16th October, 1979 of proposals for a Scheme of Arrangement between the Company and its shareholders and related transactions. By public advertisement which appeared in the press on Tuesday, 23rd October, 1979 shareholders were given further information with respect to the above mentioned Scheme of Arrangement and related transactions and were given notices of the relative meetings.

In that advertisement, holders of Share Warrants to Bearer were advised to consult immediately the Bearer Reception Office of the Company, or any of the paying agents, at the addresses listed below, where copies of the Scheme of Arrangement and other necessary documents were stated to be available during normal business hours.

The attention of shareholders is drawn to the fact that, with effect from the opening of business on 24th October, 1979, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have removed all Exchange Control restrictions as between the United Kingdom on the one hand and the rest of the world on the other hand with the single exception of Rhodesia.

This change in the law of the United Kingdom has had effects on the proposals—particularly in that the Company will no longer be entitled to the Investment Currency Premium on proceeds of sale of investments—and accordingly a further circular was posted to registered shareholders on 28th October, 1979 giving particulars of the changes in the effects of the proposals and of the action to be taken by shareholders.

The above mentioned further circular contains modifications to the procedure which holders of Share Warrants to Bearer should follow if they wish to vote at either of the meetings at which they are entitled to attend and vote. It is emphasised that the procedure already indicated in the Notices of Meeting may still be followed but, having regard to the abolition of Exchange Control requirements with respect to United Kingdom resident shareholders, additional procedures (stated in the circular) are now available for their convenience if they wish to adopt them.

Bearer reception 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.  
Paying agents—Crédit Lyonnais, and Banque Rothschild, 19 boulevard des Capucines, 75002 Paris, 21 rue Laffitte, 75009 Paris.

By Order of the board  
D. S. Booth, Secretary.

28th October, 1979.

GENERAL MINING GROUP  
THE GRIQUALAND EXPLORATION AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED  
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Issued Capital—R597,500 in 11,950,000 shares of 5 cents each  
REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1979  
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF THE GROUP

	Quarter ended 30.9.79	Quarter ended 30.6.79	Financial year to date	Previous financial year to date
Operating results				
Development—metres	1,036	1,287	3,440	4,381
Ore Milled—tons	108,000	95,000	288,000	354,000
Fibre produced—tons	11,812	12,614	37,306	50,436
Percentage fibre recovered	11.1	12.7	12.7	14.2
Revenue per ton	R523.2	R544.6	R540.0	R548.5
Production costs per ton	R316.8	R371.7	R379.3	R331.9
Selling costs per ton	R112.4	R110.9	R110.9	R110.9
Financial results				
Operating profit	1,491	2,153	5,779	8,156
Profit after tax from non-mining subsidiaries	120	20	185	292
	1,611	2,173	5,964	8,448
Less: Interest and sundries	206	195	572	220
Currency losses	44	21	111	—
Profit before taxation	1,361	1,957	5,281	8,228
Provision for taxation	253	406	1,201	2,151
Net profit after taxation	1,108	1,551	4,080	6,077
Capital expenditure	183	465	865	852
Prospecting expenditure	71	119	284	472
Loan Levy	24	39	114	312

Consolidated results are given, as information relating to the company only could be misleading.

Financial results are based on actual fibre shipments which vary from month to month and do not necessarily bear a pro-rata relationship to production and sales for the year. Because of a distinct seasonal pattern in asbestos sales, results for the quarter under review should, preferably, be compared with those of the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year.

Operating results relate to the activities of group mines only, while financial results reflect sales of fibre from group mines as well as sales of other producers.

Prices remain under pressure but Canadian prices announced for 1980 are promising. Rand receipts per ton decreased with a higher proportion of short fibre in the sales mix and adverse rates of exchange.

The traditional seasonal upswing in sales during the second and third quarters was delayed due to a gradual fall-off in demand during the middle of the year.

Fibre production is regulated by sales and fibre stocks on hand. Reduced production has an adverse effect on costs.

Interim dividend No. 56 of 30 cents per share was paid on 23rd August 1979.

On behalf of the Board  
C. H. WALTERS | Directors  
L. K. JOOSTE

Registered Office:  
6 Holland Street,  
Johannesburg 2001,  
South Africa.

London Office:  
6 Gresham Street,  
London EC2V 7EN

30th October 1979

Extract from the Consolidated Interim Accounts to 30th June 1979 of Irish Commercial Society Group Limited.

	6 Months to June 30th, 1979	Year to December 31st, 1978
Net Profit after Taxation	IR£179,282	IR£75,048
At June 30th, 1979		At December 31st, 1978
Shareholders Equity	IR£636,925	IR£462,939
Withdrawable Shares & Deposits	IR£5,617,666	IR£4,967,632
TOTAL ASSETS	IR£7,007,924	IR£5,926,351

Copies of the Interim Audit Accounts are available from:  
The Secretary, Irish Commercial Society Group Limited,  
Irish Commercial House, Store Street, Dublin 1.

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the first European Accountancy Conference

## EURAC 79

20-22 November, 1979

Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo

EURAC 79 has been organised in conjunction with AGB Conference Services Ltd to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the publication of Accountancy Age. Its aim is to bring together the leading financial figures in Europe from practice, commerce and industry to discuss the pressing issues of modern accounting.

The programme is given below. Delegates may choose only one topic out of three in each section but papers for all seminars will be provided. Round-table syndicate groups will be held on the final afternoon to provide a forum for a detailed exchange of views and discussion of specific problems.

A full social programme has also been arranged, and delegates are encouraged to bring their partners.

## The Programme

## Tuesday 20 November 1979

18.00	Registration	19.00	Welcome cocktail party	20.00	Dinner and introduction of speakers
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## Wednesday 21 November 1979

09.00-10.15	A THE THIRD WORLD CHALLENGE TO MULTINATIONALS — difficulties of control and compliance with UN intervention in financial reporting and its purposes: a model report for a multinational corporation; enforcement of UN standards; evolving advice and interpretation of financial information; controlling the cost of reporting. N.T. WANG, Director, International Audit & Tax Division, United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations, New York.	OR	B TRENDS IN LITIGATION AGAINST ACCOUNTANTS AND THE — countries to be avoided; which projects carry high risk; a strategy for minimising exposure; what to do on an action suit; using the work of other firms protecting client confidentiality in court. DAVID HIGGINS, Harbert Smith, Solicitors, London.	OR	C REMUNERATING THE EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE: STRATEGIES FOR TAX MINIMISATION — developing a remuneration package strategy: benefits in kind; pension; bonuses; life assurance; entertainment allowances;— special issues for different countries. MICHAEL Z. HUPKER, Chairman, Harwood Turkel Group, London.
10.45-12.00	D THE MICRO-CHIP REVOLUTION AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR ACCOUNTANTS — the coming generation of accounting systems: implications for word processing, filing, information retrieval; how to advise clients: cost of the new systems; implementing the technology; audit and control to relevant issues. ERNEST P. MORRIS, Director, Cooper & Lybrand Associates, Management Consultants, London.	OR	E TRENDS IN EUROPEAN ACCOUNTING AND THEIR REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ORGANISATION AND OPERATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING FIRMS — Multinational or international, two contrasting philosophies: coping with different nationalities; how much US influence. GRAHAM CORRIE, Partner, Post Mervick Mitchell, Paris.	OR	F EMERGING ISSUES IN ACCOUNTING AND HOW THE ACCOUNTANTS' SOCIETY MAY CHANGING — meeting the needs of different users, trade unions, employees, legislators; social reporting and corporate responsibility; how accounting systems influence employer attitudes; accounting for non-financial functions. PROFESSOR ANTHONY HODGKINS, Lecturer, School of Business Studies, London.
14.00-15.15	G HOW NETHERLANDS CORPORATE REPORTING IS MONITORED BY SOCIAL PRESSURE GROUPS — financial, taxation and competition of pressure groups: use of assets to have reports withdrawn and revised; importance of SOBI; attitude of government; social, professional and legal repercussions on accountants. HENK VOLTER, Director, NVRA, the Netherlands Institute of Registered Accountants, Amsterdam.	OR	H THE EUROPEAN ACCOUNTING FIRM—ITS FUTURE AND DEVELOPMENT — philosophy of the firm; why it was formed; over-coming national differences; structure of the firm; policy formation and development; over-coming problems of administration, quality control, work retention, profit sharing. MICHAEL SHIRLEY-BEAVAN, Managing Partner, Binder Hamlyn, London.	OR	I THE IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO US CURRENCY RULES — the requirements of FASB; the pressure for reform; proposed changes in the standards; comparison with UK and IASC proposals; consequences for multinational firms. HENRY GOLD, Head of Accounting Research, Royal Dutch-Shell Group, London.
15.45-17.00	J ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING PROBLEMS POSED BY ACQUISITIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES — difficulties of access to consolidated data; release or work of other auditors; assessing compatibility of different accounting systems; providing up to date financial information; and profit forecasts. DEREK FOSTER, Partner, Arthur Young McClelland Moore, Chartered Accountants, London.	OR	K INFLATION ACCOUNTING: POTENTIAL DISASTER OR VITAL REFORM — proposals for implementation in UK & US; key elements of the system; European reaction; cost and benefits of CCA to management and investors; over-coming hostility of tax authorities and unions. DOUGLAS MORPETH, Chairman, UK Institute Accounting Standing Group, London.	OR	L HOW MULTINATIONALS CAN BENEFIT FROM CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES — purposes of captive insurance; coverage; assessing the costs and benefits; choosing a location; when and how it should be set up; coping with the tax authorities. MALCOLM FINNEY, Thomson Baker & Co, Chartered Accountants, London.

## Thursday 22 November 1979

09.00-10.15	M THE EEC PROGRAMME TO HARMONISE EUROPEAN COMPANY LAW — problems of harmonisation; purpose of the programme; review of progress to date; programme for next five years; implications for auditors, and preparation of accounts; the policy for enforcement; consequences for industry. IVO SCHWARTZ, Director, Approbation of Laws, EEC Commission, Brussels.	OR	N THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS: ITS IMPACT ON THE EEC — composition of the Court, its purpose and function; powers of the auditors; relationship with European Parliament and EEC Commission; involvement of outside auditors. SIR NORMAN PRICE, Former Chairman of the Board of Internal Revenue and Member of the European Committee of Auditors, Luxembourg.	OR	O THE ROLE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SHAREHOLDER — consequences of concentration of power; influence of fund managers on industry; scope for new investment—loans, venture capital, etc. ALFRED SINGER, Vice President, Association of Certified Accountants, London.
10.45-12.00	P SATISFYING SIX MASTERS: CONFLICT AND CO-OPERATION IN THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEC, OECD, UN, IASC, EEC AND AIC — which standards to follow; coping with discrepancies between standards; attitude of auditors and regulatory authorities; controlling costs of compliance. MICHAEL REINHALL, Partner, Post Mervick Mitchell, London and Former Technical Director, English ICA.	OR	Q THE PROBLEMS AND POLICIES OF ACCOUNTING FOR LEASES — the end of off-balance sheet financing and implications for leasing; industry; review of the position in the US, UK and Europe; capitalisation; full disclosure; consequences for preparers and users of accounts. PAUL RUTEMAN, Chairman, UK ASAC Working Party on Leasing, Partner, Arthur Young McClelland Moore, London.	OR	R HOW TO SPEED UP FINANCIAL REPORTING IN INTERNATIONAL FIRMS — the purpose of accounts; deciding what information matters; creating accounting systems without bureaucracy; extracting information from data; streamlining existing systems; early warning systems. TONY WILSON, Financial Controller, BOC Ltd, London.

## 14.00-15.30 SYNDICATES

## SYNDICATES

## SYNDICATES

## 16.00-17.00 CONCLUSION

## CONCLUSION

## CONCLUSION

## Registration Form Please complete and return to:

Christine Brandon, Conference Organiser, AGB Conference Services Ltd  
Ludgate House, 107-111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB  
Telephone: 01-353 3651

For more than one delegate please photocopy the form.

The conference fee, which includes all documentation and refreshments during sessions, is £250.00 (plus 15% VAT—£37.50—for delegates attending from the UK).

A travel and accommodation package has been arranged at £250.00 per person whether in a single or sharing a twin room. The cost includes:

- (a) Economy class air travel London—Nice—London
- (b) 3 nights accommodation and full board at Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo commencing with dinner on Tuesday 20 November and terminating after breakfast on Friday 23 November
- (c) Transfers to and from hotel; local taxes and service charge.

For those who wish to make their own way to Monte Carlo, the cost of 3 nights accommodation and full board as outlined in (b) above is £150.00 per person.

**WEEKEND ARRANGEMENTS**  
Delegates and their partners will be able to stay on at Loews Hotel for the weekend at a reasonable cost, and special return flight arrangements will be made if demand is sufficient. Please tick here (with no commitment at this stage) if it is possible you might wish to take advantage of this offer.

## CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations cause considerable expense, but substitutions may be made at any time at no extra cost. If cancellation becomes necessary it must be received in writing by AGB Conference Services Ltd no

later than 1 November 1979. One half of the conference fee will be returned, plus a full refund of travel and/or accommodation costs.

After 1 November 1979 no money will be refunded but a full set of conference papers will be sent to those who have cancelled.

Please make the following registration.

CONFERENCE (When completing this form please give your name as you would like it to appear on your badge)

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Job title ..... Company .....

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SEMINAR ORGANISATION: Please indicate below the meetings you wish to attend.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R

## UK NEWS

## British china exports to U.S. fall by half

BY LORNE BARLING

BRITAIN'S DOMESTIC tableware exports have been suffering badly this year, with sales to the U.S. falling sharply.

Overall, the pottery industry—which includes tiles, ceramic insulators and porcelain goods—has had a bad year with exports valued at £103m for the first seven months of the year, being roughly the same as for the same period of 1978. Much of the blame is put on the U.S., a major market, where sales of porcelain and china goods have fallen by nearly half.

Figures from the British Ceramics Manufacturers' Association, show sales during the

seven-month period fell from 109,000 tonnes to 93,000 tonnes. But sales to EEC countries have shown a steady rise.

The fall in U.S. sales is blamed on the strength of sterling and local competition, although Royal Doulton Tableware said its U.S. sales had not suffered too badly and was optimistic about EEC markets.

Porcelain and china sales to the EEC in the seven months rose to £7m compared with less than £5m in the same period of 1978. Doulton said the UK previously had a small EEC market share which was now increasing. Another major exporter, with

around 90 per cent of its sales abroad, Enoch Wedgwood Tunstall, said that its earthenware exports to West Germany had fallen substantially as has the industry's as a whole.

This sector has suffered badly in the past seven months with sales in almost all markets, particularly the U.S., falling heavily. The possible imposition of duties in Canada are also causing concern.

Most companies see little hope of an improvement in the U.S. market in the near future, although Canada, which has suffered an even greater fall in the value of its currency than the U.S., remains a large and stable outlet.

## Accounting standards 'need City backing'

By Michael Lafferty

CITY INVESTMENT institutions should play a more active role in setting accounting standards, according to Mr. Hugh Patterson, retiring senior partner of Ernst and Whinney, one of the biggest accounting firms in the country.

Mr. Patterson, a senior partner for six years, sees a more active role by the institutions as one way of enlisting account users to influence standards.

"If you attain the stature of some of these institutions you really ought to put something back into society," Mr. Patterson says. It is not good enough for the pension funds to say they have insufficient staff to sit on the relevant committees. They should recruit people with the necessary expertise.

He forecasts the suggested removal of the audit requirement from small companies, which was mooted in a recent Department of Trade discussion paper, could have a serious impact on small accounting firms.

It would, he says, reduce small firms' workload and release staff for bigger firms like his own.

The absence of audited accounts, even though they are historical, would force banks to adopt "a much more businesslike approach" in their lending practices.

Mr. Patterson will be succeeded as senior partner at Ernst and Whinney by Mr. Dennis Garrett, former senior partner of Turquand Barton Mayhew, which merged with Ernst and Whinney last year. The firm's deputy senior partner will be Mr. Peter Godfrey.

## Scottish ports may form Antwerp link

A TRADE LINK for Scottish East Coast ports with Antwerp may develop following a visit to Aberdeen by a delegation from the Belgian port.

After the delegation toured harbour installations yesterday, Mr. John Turner, general manager of Aberdeen Harbour Board, said that a survey had identified much trade from northern Scotland that could use Aberdeen, but went to English ports.

Mr. F. S. Surkens, Antwerp deputy general manager, said the port had direct links with Scotland after the war, but these disappeared through the increase in long-haul road traffic.

EEC haulage regulations and environmental legislation were creating a new market. Antwerp was studying the possibilities and the delegation would return to Scotland in May with representatives of 50 companies. The present delegation is also visiting Dundee and Clyde and Forth ports.

## Fireworks sale curb sought

Financial Times Reporter

THE ASSOCIATION of Metropolitan Authorities yesterday called for a ban on across-the-counter sale of fireworks.

Over 900 people, mostly children, were hurt last year on Guy Fawkes Night. Mr. Jack Moultrie, chairman of the association's General Services Committee, said that the time had come to ban retail sale of all fireworks.

## Insurance case appeals

MR. CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS and two insurance companies found guilty at Maidenhead Magistrates' Court of making loans to connected companies, are to appeal on points of law.

The defendants were found guilty last Friday of charges involving loans to Gilgate Holdings, a connected company. Other charges involved furnishing false information to the Department of Trade through routine quarterly returns, and not in interviews with Department of Trade officials as stated in an article in Saturday's edition.

## Hewlett will be published

LORD HEWLETT, an industrialist and former Tory Party chairman, who committed suicide in July aged 58, left £190,408 gross, £114,213 net, in his will published yesterday. His home was at Swettenham, Congleton, Cheshire.

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For full details, call the National Management Game Administrator on 01-242 7806 or complete and return the coupon. The closing date for entries is November 9, 1979. No matter how much or how little you know about management, why not let the NMG show you how good a businessman you really are?

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## AYER HITAM TIN DREDGING MALAYSIA BERHAD

(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman,  
Y. A. M. Tengku Tan Sri Indra Petra, for the year ended 30 June 1979

## Performance During the Year

All three dredges operated satisfactorily and a total of 37,900 piculs of tin concentrate was produced which included 1,514 piculs recovered from the retreatment of finished residues. The better production, which was expected with all dredges working in virgin ground, represents an increase of 28% over that of the previous year.

The increase in production together with the higher tin price during the year contributed to a profit before government export duty and taxation of M\$38,739,000, an increase of M\$14,188,000 or almost 63% over the previous year. Government export duty and taxation absorbed M\$28,030,000 or 71% (1978: M\$18,194,000: 81%), leaving a balance of M\$10,699,000 (1978: M\$4,387,000) for appropriation.

## Dividends

An interim dividend of 150 sen per share, less tax at 40%, was paid on 16 April 1979. Your directors have recommended the payment of a final dividend of 140 sen per share, less tax at 40%. This final dividend, subject to your approval at the annual general meeting to be held on 23 November 1979, will be paid on 26 November 1979.

The total dividend payment for the year would be 290 sen per share, less tax at 40%, compared with 300 sen per share, less tax at 40%, paid last year.

## Projections for Current Year

No. 1 dredge will be transferred via a pre-cut channel to a new area on the western side of the property sometime in November 1979. Although all three dredges will be working in virgin ground, it is expected that the current year's production will be slightly lower because of the lower grade of reserves.

## Development during the Year

The Company's application for the renewal of two mining leases covering a total area of 831 acres was rejected during the year. These leases were subsequently awarded to Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor Berhad (KPS).

Although the rejection was over an area consisting mainly of mined-out land on which limited dredge operations would be carried out, it has affected the Company's future plan for mining, by opencast methods, the deep virgin reserves remaining below a dredged-out area within the expired leases.

Following the rejection, negotiations were carried out with representatives of KPS with a view to securing a sublease over the expired leases. In May 1979 a permit-to-mine was issued to the Company by KPS over 165 acres of the expired leases for dredging on a tribute of 10%. This has enabled the Company's dredging operations to continue uninterrupted. Negotiations for a sublease over the area intended for the deep opencast mining are in progress.

12 October 1979

Copies of the Report and Accounts and Chairman's Statement can be obtained from the United Kingdom Registrars' office at Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ, England.

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**RESULTS** Despite generally depressed market conditions in the U.K. construction industry Group trading results are again a record and reflect the company's policy of widening its base geographically and diversifying its interests. Pre-tax profits show an increase of 37.8% over those of the comparable period last year.

**DIVIDENDS** An interim dividend of 1.54p net per share is declared equivalent, with the associated tax credit, to 2.2p per share, compared with 1.66666p paid last year, an increase of 32%. It is intended to recommend payment of a similar increase in the final dividend. Taking into account the substantial increase made at the time of the Rights Issue in 1977, the present increase means that in the last three years the company has increased its dividend by 179%.

**PROSPECTS** The Directors consider that, in the absence of external developments affecting productivity, the level of trading now reported on will be maintained.

## RESULTS IN BRIEF (Unaudited)

	Half-year to	Half-year to	Year ended
	31.7.79	31.7.78	31.1.79
Turnover	£7000	£7000	£7000
Profit before tax	38,451	34,757	65,496
Profit after tax	2,422	1,757	4,217
Earnings per share	1.332	842	2.157
	7.17p	5.06p	12.96p

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مركز التحصيل

# APPOINTMENTS

## Chief executive for Modern Maid Food

Mr. Joseph P. Diamond has been appointed vice-chairman and chief executive officer of MODERN MAID FOOD PRODUCTS INC., the U.S. fast food ingredients manufacturer and a subsidiary of Spillers, from November 1.

The announcement was made in London yesterday by Mr. Derrick Hornby, president of Spillers Inc., Spillers U.S. holding company, and the Spillers Board member responsible for the general products division and international operations.

Said Mr. Hornby: "Mr. Diamond will run the company. He joins us at a time when I am delighted to say that we have now been able to turn the company round after a very disappointing first nine months. It will be Mr. Diamond's job now to develop the sales and marketing side of the business."

Mr. Diamond was at one time with Ingersoll Rand and he later joined Wechsler Coffee Corporation in New Jersey where he became president of domestic operations.



Mr. Joseph P. Diamond

has additionally been appointed chief executive of Airsprung Group. Mr. W. H. French and Mr. E. J. Fry will be promoted to joint managing directors, Airsprung Limited, reporting to the chief executive.

Mr. Robert P. Rittner, executive vice-president, operations, of Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner and Smith Inc., has been appointed to the Board of the CHICAGO BOARD OPTIONS EXCHANGE and will complete the term of Mr. Ross B. Kenzie, who has retired from the securities industry.

Professor T. R. E. Southwood, Linacre Professor of Zoology at the University of Oxford, has been elected chairman of trustees of the BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY) from January 1, 1980, in succession to Dr. A. Williams, who retires from the board of trustees at the end of this year.

Mr. J. P. Meckler has been appointed president of PARKER (EUROPE) FLUID POWER GROUP. Mr. C. F. Ackerman has become vice-president Parker (Europe) and general manager of the European operation of the Parker Hannifin Corporation.

Mr. T. W. G. Ashdown has been appointed director of YORKSHIRE FINE WOOLLEN SPINNERS. He holds 48,000 shares, representing 8 per cent of the equity, and for the past year has been acting as an adviser to the company on technical and commercial matters. Mr. Ashdown is at present chairman of Associated Weavers (Fabrics), a subsidiary of Cope Sportsware, of which he has been a director for eight years.

Unilever and until his appointment, was for three years managing director of a GEC subsidiary. Mr. John Hornsey has joined Redland Roof Tiles as technical and general engineering director. Until his appointment he was for five years with Sheffield Smelting Company as chief engineer and subsequently director and general manager.

Mr. L. M. Duncan has joined the Board of ARGYLE SECURITIES (HOLDINGS) as chairman and Mr. K. S. Richards has also become a director. Mr. R. A. E. Franklin has resigned as chairman and from the Board and has taken up an appointment in the U.S.

Mr. W. N. Mendes-Wilson will be appointed deputy chairman of OCEAN TRANSPORT AND TRADING on January 31, 1980, following the retirement of Mr. D. R. Elder. The Board intends to elect Mr. Mendes-Wilson as chairman on the retirement of Sir Lindsay Alexander from that post in September, 1980. When Mr. Elder retires, Mr. D. W. Hardy will take over responsibility within the Ocean Group for the Straits Steamship Company of Singapore and, in agreement with the Inchcape Group, will succeed Mr. Elder



Mr. W. N. Mendes-Wilson

as chairman of Ocean Inchcape, the offshore supplies and services company. Mr. Mendes-Wilson is at present managing director of the Ocean Marine Division, following the integration of the Ocean Fleets, Ocean Liners and Sine Funnell Bulkships divisions into one shipping division in March, 1979. Mr. Hardy is an outside director of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and of the Globe Investment Trust. Before joining Ocean in 1977 as a senior executive director, he was finance director of Tate and Lyle.

Mr. Walter Hayes has been appointed vice-president, public affairs, of FORD MOTOR COMPANY from January 1, 1980, and he will be based in Ford world headquarters, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Hayes, a vice-president of Ford Motor Company and vice-chairman, Ford of Europe, joined Ford of Britain in 1962 after a career in journalism. He succeeds Mr. Nicholas Meek, Jr., who is retiring after 31 years with the company.

Mr. H. W. Cross is to become executive chairman of BRENT CHEMICALS INTERNATIONAL from January 1, 1980 in succession to Mr. J. S. M. Jones, who will remain a non-executive member of the Board. Mr. S. C. Cuthbert, at present finance director, will be chief executive and group managing director from the same date.

Mr. Oliver Chesterton is to join the Board of ESTATES PROPERTY INVESTMENT COMPANY.

Mr. Graham C. Cook has become managing director for SUPERFLEX in place of Mr. J. W. Hargreaves, who remains a director. Mr. Ray Young has been made works manager. He was previously works manager of Fluidrive Engineering.

WALTER LAWRENCE has appointed Mr. T. R. Davis as deputy chairman of the group and Mr. A. J. Martin as deputy group managing director. Mr. Davis is the present financial director of the Walter Lawrence Group and will continue to hold that post. Mr. Martin has been chairman of the engineering

companies within Walter Lawrence and his responsibilities will now extend to the manufacturing and retail operations of the group.

Mr. Seymour H. Fortescue has been appointed a deputy divisional general manager of BARCLAYCARD.

Mr. Barton F. Walker Jr. has been named director of international programs for FAIRCHILD INDUSTRIES. Prior to his association with the company, Mr. Walker was corporate director of international programs for Nordrop Corp.

Mr. Alan Sampson has been appointed marketing manager, SEARAJAH PORT AUTHORITY.

Mr. J. W. Findlay has joined the board of EQUITY CAPITAL FOR INDUSTRY and has been appointed deputy managing director. He is a deputy investment manager of the Prudential Assurance Company, and will be on secondment from that company. Mr. Alan Barrett continues as managing director of ECL.

Mr. David Blich has been elected to the board of the MILFORD DOCKS COMPANY. He is the managing director of Greyhound Equipment Finance, a bank owned by Greyhound Guaranty of which he is also a director. These companies are a part of the Greyhound International Finance Group.

To concentrate on future development and diversification and to become less involved in the day-to-day management of the AIRSPRUNG GROUP, Mr. J. G. Yates has relinquished the post of managing director, but remains executive chairman. Mr. M. L. Coppel, at present chief executive of Airsprung Limited,



## "Our Nationwide Capital Bond offers over 11%-right from the start."

Nationwide's 5 year Capital Bond will make the most of your capital.

**HIGHEST EVER INTEREST**

We guarantee to pay you a full 2% above our prevailing Ordinary Share rate for 5 years. With current interest rates that means 10.75%—Nationwide's highest ever interest rate. Unlike some other investment schemes, there is no

waiting for this extra interest—you get the full amount immediately.

**GREATER CAPITAL GROWTH**

You can leave your half-yearly interest invested in your Bond to make your capital grow even faster. For example, 10.75% compounds to an annual rate of 11.03%, so that £1,000 invested would be worth £1,688 after 5 years, subject to these rates continuing.

**MORE MONTHLY INCOME**

Alternatively, with the current issue of Capital Bonds, you can have your interest each month as regular monthly income.

All Nationwide Capital Bonds guarantee you extra interest above the Ordinary Share account rate and you can invest any sum between £500 and £15,000 (£30,000 for a joint account) for 2, 3, 4 or 5 years. Choose the amount and term which suits you best.

There are over 850 Nationwide branches and agency branches. Call in at the one nearest you or post the coupon.

The Nationwide Building Society, FREEPOST, London W1V 6CA.  
If we enclose a cheque for £2 to be invested as indicated.  
PLEASE TICK BOXES  
1. I am a present 25-year-old ( ) 2. I am a present 35-year-old ( ) 3. I am a present 45-year-old ( ) 4. I am a present 55-year-old ( )  
5. Please pay interest at end of each month ( ) 6. Please pay interest at end of each year ( ) 7. Please pay interest at end of each year ( ) 8. Please pay interest at end of each year ( )  
9. I am a Nationwide Shareholder ( ) 10. I am not a Nationwide Shareholder ( )  
11. I want to be compensated ( ) 12. I do not want to be compensated ( )  
Interest can be compounded until the maximum permitted investment is reached.

**Nationwide Building Society**

Full Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_   
\_\_\_\_\_   
Date \_\_\_\_\_ FT12

## It pays to decide Nationwide

## Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company, Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)  
A Member of the Barlow Rand Group

PRELIMINARY PROFIT STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1979 AND DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

	Notes	Year ended 30th September 1979 (R'000)	1978 (R'000)
Turnover	1	207 420	141 887
Consolidated profit before taxation		65 564	56 502
Taxation		22 780	21 062
Normal		15 179	9 807
Deferred		7 601	11 255
Consolidated profit after taxation	2	42 784	35 440
Less: Minority interests in subsidiary companies		5 455	7 958
Interest of members		34 329	27 482
Shares in issue		7 304 538	7 304 538
Earnings per share		470c	378.2c
Dividends per share		135c	110c
No. 79 (interim) of 42 cents			
No. 80 (final) of 93 cents			

Notes  
1. Turnover is the revenue derived from the asbestos, coal, chrome and timber operations of the subsidiary companies.  
2. The consolidated profit after taxation includes investment realisation amounting to R527 000 (1978: R384 000) equivalent to 7 cents per share (1978: 5 cents per share) for the year. This figure includes amounts recovered from loans previously written off less amounts written off investments.

Final Dividend No. 80  
A final dividend of 93 cents per share has been declared in terms of the dividend notice published herewith.

The company's annual financial statements will be posted at the end of November, 1979.

For and on behalf of the board,  
A. C. Petersen (Chairman) } Directors  
R. S. Lawrence

29th October, 1979.

Registered Office  
15th Floor,  
63 Fox Street,  
Johannesburg 2001

Declaration of Dividend No. 80  
Notice is hereby given that Dividend No. 80 of 93 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, as a final dividend in respect of the year ended 30th September, 1979, payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 23rd November, 1979 and to persons presenting the appropriate coupon (No. 81) detached from a share warrant to bearer. The dividend on a share warrant to bearer will be paid in terms of a further notice to be published by the company's London Secretaries on 30th November, 1979. The register of members will be closed on 24th November 1979 to 2nd December, 1979, inclusive, and dividend warrants will be posted on or about 2nd January, 1980.

The rate of exchange at which the dividend will be converted into United Kingdom currency for payment by the United Kingdom Registrars and Transfer Agents will be the telegraphic transfer rate of exchange between Johannesburg and London ruling on the first business day after 24th November, 1979 on which foreign currency dealings are transacted.

Where applicable, South African non-resident shareholders' tax of 15% will be deducted from the dividend.

The full conditions of payment of this dividend may be inspected at or obtained from the offices of the company in Johannesburg or in the United Kingdom.

By order of the Board,  
RAND MINES, LIMITED  
Secretaries  
per V. M. Merton  
United Kingdom Registrars and Transfer Agents:  
Charter Consolidated Limited  
P.O. Box 102  
Charter House  
Park Street, Ashford,  
Kent TN24 8BQ  
29th October, 1979.

## AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

DM 100,000,000 8% BEARER BONDS OF 1979/1987  
ISSUE PRICE: 99 1/4%

NEW ISSUE  
October 1979

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

BERLINER HANDELS- UND FRANKFURTER BANK  
CREDIT LYONNAIS  
MERRILL LYNCH INTERNATIONAL & CO.

Alah Bank of Kuwait (K.S.C.)  
The Arab Investment Company S.A.A.  
Bank of America International  
Bank Europäischer Genossenschaftsbanken  
Bank of Tokyo (Deutschland)  
Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez  
Banque Populaire Suisse S.A. Luxembourg  
Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale  
Caisse Centrale des Banques Populaires  
County Bank  
Daiva Europe N.V.  
Eisenbank-Warburg  
Girozentrale und Bank der österreichischen Sparkassen  
Industriebank von Japan (Deutschland)  
Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Co. (S.A.K.)  
Bankhaus Hermann Lampe  
London & Continental Bankers  
Morgan Grenfell & Co.  
Norddeutsche Landesbank  
Salomon Brothers International  
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken  
Société Générale Alsacienne de Banque  
Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities)  
M.M. Warburg-Brockmann, Wirtz & Co.

Algemeine Bank Nederland N.V.  
Badische Kommunale Landesbank  
Bank Julius Baer International  
Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft  
Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.  
Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A.  
Banque Populaire Suisse S.A. Luxembourg  
Banque Rothschild  
Banque Worms  
Berliner Bank  
Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations  
Centrale Rabobank  
Crédit Agricole  
Créditanstalt-Bankverein  
Richard Daus & Co.  
First Chicago  
Hessische Landesbank  
Kleinwort, Benson  
Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz  
Manufacturers Hanover  
Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie.  
Scandinavian Bank  
Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co.  
Société Générale de Banque S.A.  
Union de Banques Arabes et Françaises - U.B.A.F.  
Westfälische Bank  
Yamaichi International (Europe)

Arab African International Bank  
Banca Commerciale Italiana  
Banca del Gottardo  
Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A.  
Bank Gutzwiller, Kurz, Bungenier (Overseas)  
Bank Leu International  
Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.  
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas  
Barclays Bank International  
Bankhaus Gebrüder Bethmann  
Chase Manhattan  
Continental Illinois  
Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Nederland N.V.  
Dillon, Read Overseas Corporation  
Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank AG  
The Industrial Bank of Kuwait KSC  
Kuhn Loeb Lehman Brothers International  
Kuwait Investment Company (S.A.K.)  
Lazard Brothers & Co.  
Lazard Frères et Cie.  
B. Metzler seel. Sohn & Co.  
Nippon European Bank S.A.  
Nomura Europe N.V.  
Österreichische Volksbanken  
PKbanken  
J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co.  
Société Bancaire Barclays (Suisse) S.A.  
Strauss, Tumbull & Co.  
Tinkhaus & Burkhart  
Vereins- und Westbank  
Dean Witter Reynolds International  
Wood Gundy

Companies and Markets

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

Earnings advance at United Brands

By Our Financial Staff  
UNITED BRANDS, the U.S. food group, increased net profit during the third quarter to \$2.5m from \$1.3m on higher sales of \$874.2m against \$790.3m. Per share earnings advanced to 18 cents from 7 cents for the quarter.  
The earnings improvement was due mainly to increased banana sales, which helped to offset the impact of a charge connected with the anticipated closure of one of the company's meat packing facilities. A strike at United Brands' lettuce operations, which was settled on August 31, also held the earnings advance.  
Bananas and related produce normally generate 31 per cent of company sales and 75 per cent of income, whereas meat operations represent 56 per cent of sales and only 6 per cent of income.

**Congoleum agreement**  
Congoleum Corporation (flooring, shipbuilding) has approved a definitive agreement for its merger with a unit of Fibre Corporation which is affiliated with First Boston Corporation, reports Reuters from Chicago. As already announced, terms call for Congoleum holders to receive \$38 in cash for each Congoleum share.

Texas Instruments growth maintained in third quarter

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

SALES and earnings of Texas Instruments, the leading U.S. producer of semiconductor products, maintained their growth rates in the third quarter. At \$43.6m, net earnings rose by 23 per cent, lifting per share earnings from \$1.56 to \$1.92. Sales grew by 26 per cent to \$813m.  
This brings nine-month earnings to \$126.4m, up 26 per cent, and sales to \$2,320m, 27 per cent higher. Share earnings advanced from \$4.41 to \$5.55.  
The company expects markets for its consumer products to soften, although the outlook for its other businesses is more favourable.  
Markets for distributed computing systems continue to

grow. Semiconductor demand and demand for petroleum exploration services remain strong, while the Government electronics business should be relatively unaffected by economic conditions.  
The order backlog increased to \$1.78bn at September 30, up \$124m from the end of the second quarter of 1979 and \$463m from a year ago.  
Consumer electronics margins fell in the third quarter, partly because of increased material costs, softness in the digital watch market and home computer development costs.  
Margins also declined to a minor extent in Government electronics and distributed computing because of costs related

to manufacturing expansion.  
Construction is under way to triple the size of the new Dallas Government electronics plant. Construction has also begun on a new plant for distributed computing products in College Station, Texas.  
Three major new semiconductor wafer processing facilities have been authorised.  
Earnings of about \$7.25 have been estimated for 1979, compared with \$6.15 last year. Sales are forecast at \$3.1bn. Operations inside the U.S. account for some 63 per cent of sales and 59 per cent of profits. Europe contributed 17 per cent of sales and 14 per cent of profits in 1978.

German sale planned by Union Carbide

By David Lascelles in New York

UNION CARBIDE, the large diversified chemicals concern, is negotiating to sell its metal working chemicals business to Henkel, the West German chemical and consumer goods company.  
Union Carbide would not disclose the size of the deal, but indicated that it was not very large. It did confirm, though, that the proposed sale was part of the long-term industrial reorganisation programme it has undertaken. The metal working activities were acquired two years ago when Union Carbide bought Agrum Chemical Products for its agricultural chemical products business.

Airline merger

The Civil Aeronautics Board has formally approved the merger of Pan American World Airways and National Airlines and sent its recommendation to President Carter. Reports from Washington. The CAB also approved a possible merger with National by Texas International Airlines but Texas International has agreed to sell its holdings in National to Pan Am. The President has 60 days, on foreign policy grounds, to act on the CAB recommendations.

Swiss Bank postpones Tauern Autobahn issue

BY FRANCIS GHILES

FOR THE FIRST time since March, a Swiss franc denominated foreign bond has been postponed. Swiss Bank Corporation has decided to put off, at least until mid-November, the SwFr 60m public issue it was planning to launch this week for the Austrian borrower, Tauern Autobahn. Another sign that conditions are deteriorating in this sector came with the very weak performance of the latest issue for the World Bank, which was traded for the first time yesterday.  
Despite the lead manager Credit Suisse, conceding, last Friday, that this SwFr 100m offering had not been quite covered by subscriptions, it was issued at par, to yield 4.625 per

cent. Yesterday it opened at 96.97, where it yields 4.877 per cent. Only four weeks ago the World Bank was able to place Swiss franc denominated bonds of comparable maturity on a yield of 4.515 per cent.  
The first 5 per cent long-term bond denominated in Swiss francs for a prime borrower was announced yesterday by Banca del Gottardo. The Council of Europe has arranged a SwFr 100m issue for ten years which has been priced at 100.1 per cent to yield 4.958 per cent.  
The other major hard currency sector of the market was again weaker yesterday. But dealers in Germany said that although Deutsche Mark foreign issues eased a little yesterday, trading

was down to a trickle compared with last week.  
In the dollar sector of the market, new issues are reappearing, at least on the floating rate sector. A \$500m ten-year FRN was launched by Morgan Grenfell for the Bank of Ireland. The borrower is paying a coupon of 10 per cent over the three-month Libor rate with a minimum rate of 8 1/2 per cent. Another FRN issue, for Allied Irish Bank, is expected shortly.  
In the secondary market, prices of straight dollar issues moved up sharply during the morning but fell back later in the day because New York opened weak. The market closed with gains of between 1 and 1 1/2 points on the day.

Merrill Lynch to pay damages

BY STEWART FLEMING IN NEW YORK

A STATE COURT judge in New York has ruled that Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner and Smith, the largest stockbroker in the U.S., should pay damages to New York customers injured by its former practice of paying them with cheques drawn on California banks.  
The ruling arises out of a practice in the U.S. known as

"coast to coast banking" in which a firm pays proceeds of sales of securities with cheques drawn on distant banks.  
As a result of using distant banks to make payments the firm making the payment has used of the customer's money for a longer period because of the time it takes for cheques to clear.

In the ruling, Justice Martin Stecher rejected a proposed settlement of the class action suit which did not provide for any damages. Merrill Lynch began using three major New York city banks in February to disburse transaction proceeds to customers in New York state, ending the practice of distant banking.

\$500m credit for Venezuela

BY OUR EUROMARKETS STAFF

THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA is arranging a \$500m 10-year syndicated credit through a group led by Bank of America. Interest rate will be geared to the higher of a 1/2 per cent margin over the U.S. bank's own prime rate or a 1/2 per cent spread above 90-day U.S. certificate of deposit secondary market reference rates. A credit at increasing the attractiveness of the loan to American banks following the recent Federal Reserve Board monetary measures, according to bankers. Proceeds of the financing will be used by various Venezuelan state agencies.  
The Province of Buenos Aires, which has just completed a \$100m 10-year syndicated loan at a margin of 1/2 per cent over interbank rates, has become the first Argentine

provincial borrower to undertake an international credit.  
The loan, which is managed by Manufacturers Hanover, is guaranteed by the Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires. The funds will be mainly used to finance the construction of provincial transport routes. The National Bank of Hungary has just concluded an international loan. A credit for \$250m has been signed with a consortium of banks headed by DG Bank-Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank.  
The 10-year facility carries a spread starting at 1/2 per cent above interbank rates for the first five years and 1/2 per cent thereafter. The proceeds will be used to finance investments in export-oriented industries in Hungary.  
In addition, the Hungarian bank has signed a \$200m loan

in Tokyo with a banking group headed by the Long-term Credit Bank of Japan and the Nippon Credit Bank.  
The loan, divided into various tranches ranging up to 15 years' maturity, carries fixed interest rates at an undisclosed level, over the Japanese banking prime rate.  
Banco de Santander has become the first foreign bank authorised to establish an "Edge Act" banking subsidiary in Miami, Florida, under the U.S. international banking Act of 1978.  
Under this legislation, foreign banks were permitted to create U.S. banking subsidiaries known as Edge Acts, dealing in foreign trade and international activities in general. The new bank will be called Banco de Santander International Inc.

AMERICAN QUARTERLIES

ACF INDUSTRIES			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$22.4m	\$14.8m	
Net profit	11.2m	8.9m	
Net per share	1.28	1.13	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$71.1m	\$53.2m	
Net profit	\$4.6m	\$2.5m	
Net per share	3.95	2.18	
ARMANSON			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$36.1m	\$28.3m	
Net profit	28.58m	28.2m	
Net per share	1.29	1.27	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$87.3m	\$75.4m	
Net profit	\$7.88m	\$7.79m	
Net per share	3.83	3.83	
BROOKLYN UNION GAS			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$7.9m	\$4.5m	
Net profit	14.5m	10.5m	
Net per share	10.76	10.69	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$48.1m	\$42.2m	
Net profit	31.3m	28.0m	
Net per share	3.40	3.01	
CHROMALLOY AMERICAN			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$39.5m	\$74.3m	
Net profit	14.1m	13.4m	
Net per share	1.01	0.98	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$114.5m	\$101.6m	
Net profit	\$1.5m	\$3.9m	
Net per share	3.03	2.54	
CLODOR			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$	\$	
Net profit	\$	\$	
Net per share	\$	\$	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$	\$	
Net profit	\$	\$	
Net per share	\$	\$	
CONSOLIDATED BATHURST			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$31.5m	\$28.9m	
Net profit	28.1m	18.4m	
Net per share	1.16	0.82	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$94.6m	\$75.8m	
Net profit	\$9.2m	\$8.8m	
Net per share	3.01	1.92	
DETERLY INT.			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$9m	\$0.1m	
Net profit	1.1m	\$0.1m	
Net per share	0.34	0.02	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$17.8m	\$12m	
Net profit	\$5.5m	\$3.4m	
Net per share	1.21	0.75	
R. E. DONNELLY AND SONS			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$28.5m	\$21.7m	
Net profit	2.0m	1.8m	
Net per share	1.08	0.88	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$76.8m	\$67.4m	
Net profit	\$4.4m	\$3.8m	
Net per share	2.40	2.10	
FUGUA INDUSTRIES			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$	\$	
Net profit	\$	\$	
Net per share	\$	\$	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$	\$	
Net profit	\$	\$	
Net per share	\$	\$	
GETTY OIL			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$1.33bn	\$82.4m	
Net profit	\$174.14m	\$6.15m	
Net per share	2.11	1.17	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$3.57bn	\$2.72bn	
Net profit	\$21.84m	\$28.54m	
Net per share	5.12	2.77	
HERSHEY FOODS			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$314.4m	\$201.4m	
Net profit	17.2m	11.8m	
Net per share	1.23	0.86	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$842.2m	\$644.1m	
Net profit	\$40.2m	\$28.1m	
Net per share	2.04	2.05	
HOLLY SUGAR			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$42.8m	\$37.7m	
Net profit	\$10.8m	\$10.7m	
Net per share	10.34	10.36	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$84.7m	\$78.8m	
Net profit	\$8.1m	\$10.8m	
Net per share	0.32	10.82	
HUDSON'S BAY MINING			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$33.8m	\$10.5m	
Net profit	3.5m	0.97m	
Net per share	0.38	0.09	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$88.7m	\$35.3m	
Net profit	\$1.73m	\$3.6m	
Net per share	2.16	0.36	
JOHNSON CONTROLS			
Fourth quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$270.3m	\$235.9m	
Net profit	\$13.7m	\$12.0m	
Net per share	0.97	0.87	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$1bn	\$78m	
Net profit	\$8.2m	\$4.8m	
Net per share	3.98	3.18	
LIGGETT GROUP			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$28.1m	\$24.1m	
Net profit	\$7.1m	\$1.3m	
Net per share	3.17	1.83	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$80.2m	\$72.8m	
Net profit	\$7.4m	\$6.3m	
Net per share	5.46	5.09	
MAPCO			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$	\$	
Net profit	\$	\$	
Net per share	\$	\$	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$	\$	
Net profit	\$	\$	
Net per share	\$	\$	
NEW YORK TIMES			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$156.1m	\$80.2m	
Net profit	\$7.7m	\$12.9m	
Net per share	0.85	10.20	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$488m	\$376.4m	
Net profit	\$24.7m	\$13.0m	
Net per share	2.03	1.11	
NL INDUSTRIES			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$31.1m	\$470.3m	
Net profit	\$2.9m	\$2.3m	
Net per share	0.50	0.05	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$1.91m	\$1.38m	
Net profit	\$7.72m	\$8.55m	
Net per share	2.39	1.78	
PANHANDLE EASTERN PIPE LINE			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$48.8m	\$38.4m	
Net profit	\$2.1m	\$1.0m	
Net per share	1.42m	\$8.1m	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$142m	\$89.8m	
Net profit	\$27.7m	\$5.1m	
Net per share	6.78	4.43	
RAMADA INNS			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$7.37m	\$8.44m	
Net profit	\$	\$	
Net per share	\$	\$	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$26.94m	\$43.64m	
Net profit	\$12.1m	\$2.7m	
Net per share	0.46	0.37	
SOUTHERN TELEPHONE			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$184m	\$170.2m	
Net profit	\$17.8m	\$19.8m	
Net per share	1.22	1.05	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$724.4m	\$649.9m	
Net profit	\$74.5m	\$72.2m	
Net per share	5.62	5.78	
SOUTHLAND			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$1,060m	\$48.3m	
Net profit	\$24.02m	\$11.1m	
Net per share	1.14	0.25	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$3,830m	\$2,270m	
Net profit	\$4.5m	\$4.41m	
Net per share	2.55	2.20	
TIMKEN			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$289.3m	\$282.7m	
Net profit	\$15.07m	\$15.98m	
Net per share	1.34	1.54	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$866.5m	\$808m	
Net profit	\$74.09m	\$80.4m	
Net per share	6.94	5.47	
TOTAL PETROLEUM (NA)			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$251.6m	\$159.8m	
Net profit	\$1.1m	\$4.8m	
Net per share	0.59	0.30	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$831.0m	\$385.8m	
Net profit	\$18.4m	\$7.9m	
Net per share	1.13	0.66	
TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$185.6m	\$191m	
Net profit	\$12.7m	\$18.4m	
Net per share	2.39	2.20	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$486.3m	\$492.1m	
Net profit	\$45.5m	\$14.4m	
Net per share	5.64	6.42	
UAL			
Third quarter	1979	1978	
Revenue	\$1.2bn	\$1,150m	
Net profit	\$15.38m	\$170.64m	
Net per share	10.54	9.74	
NINE MONTHS			
Revenue	\$2,648m	\$3bn	
Net profit	\$8,26m	\$265.71m	
Net per share	12.07	11.30	

U.S. DOLLAR			
Issue	Bid	Offer	Change on week
Alcoa of Australia 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Alex. H. Leitch 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
American Int'l 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of America 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of Montreal 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of New York 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of Paris 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of Spain 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of Tokyo 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of West 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of Zurich 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125
Bank of London 10 88	80	84 1/2	+0.125

Companies and Markets

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

# Weserhuetten and PHB plan merger

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

AN IMPORT new European supplier of mining and raw materials processing equipment is to be created through a planned merger between the West German engineering concerns Weserhuetten and Pohl-Heckel-Bierich (PHB).

The merger has been agreed between PHB's parent, Luxembourg steel group Arbed, and Weserhuetten's parent, German steel and chemical trading company Otto Wolff. The new company, which will be jointly owned by Otto Wolff and Arbed, will have a turnover of DM 700m (\$389m) and is expected to place particular emphasis on overseas markets.

Weserhuetten has been especially active in Australia, the U.S., South Africa, and India, while PHB has concentrated in Latin America (its Brazilian subsidiary alone has a workforce

of 1,000) and French-speaking third world countries.

The new company is intended above all to meet the growing demand for open-cast mining equipment, as well as equipment for conveying, loading, stockpiling and processing bulk materials. As such it will be in competition with such major German concerns as Orenstein and Koppel, although O and K remains substantially larger, with sales of well over DM 1bn.

The merger is not expected to create any problems with the Federal Cartel Office or with European Community authorities, both of which have still to approve the deal. Co-operative links between Otto Wolff and Arbed already exist with the German company holding 10 per cent of Arbed. Herr Otto Wolff von Amerongen, chairman of Weserhuetten, is

also on the administrative board of Arbed.

The new merger represents the latest attempt by Arbed to diversify away from steel—thus riding out the crisis—and also underlines its strong interest in German investment. Last year it took over the German steel concern Roehrling Buehler and Neunkircher Eisenwerke. Otto Wolff has, for its part, also been aiming to extend the overseas penetration of Weserhuetten, which already owes 70 per cent of its turnover to foreign business.

Both companies are looking healthy—Weserhuetten's turnover rose by 27 per cent in 1978, for example—and the two companies have stressed that the move was not forced on them by economic problems, but was rather a rational response to shifting market conditions in the wake of the energy crisis.

Meanwhile, Dr. Herbert Glenow, chairman of the Klockner-Werke steel concern, has indicated that his group is likely to benefit strongly from the latest upturn in the steel market. Losses in 1978 of DM 74.9m are expected to be reduced substantially, and the group—the third largest steel producer in Germany—will reach "the threshold of profitability this year."

Dr. Glenow made it clear that only the effects of the steel strike and low pricing had prevented the group from moving out of the red altogether. Although he gave no exact profit or loss figures for the business year to September 30, he said that sales were up 19.2 per cent and production of crude steel up by 15.9 per cent compared with 1977-78. Rolled steel output rose by 15.6 per cent.

## ASSI reduces pre-tax losses

By John Walker in Stockholm

THE SWEDISH state-owned pulp, paper and board company, ASSI, reports a reduced pre-tax loss during the first eight months of this year of SKr91m (\$22m). This is a marked improvement compared with the SKr 196m pre-tax loss during the same period of 1978.

The eight-month turnover figure was SKr 1,796m (\$416m), and the concern expects the figure for the whole of this year to reach approximately SKr 2,950m. Deliveries in the January-August period rose by 19 per cent in volume over the same period in 1978.

The improvement in the market for forest products which became apparent in 1978 has continued into 1979, the report says. There has also been some room for price increases, which in some cases reached about 15 per cent above last year's level.

A U.S. subsidiary of Electro-Inx has extended by a month its tender offer for all common shares of Tappan, a Mansfield, Ohio, maker of home appliances, AP-DJR reports from New York.

The \$18 share offer, valued at about \$55.8m, will expire November 26.

# Norwegian state oil group lowers spending forecast

BY FAY GJETER IN OSLO

STATOIL, Norway's State oil company, has been able to reduce its forecast of 1980 investment expenditure by 4 per cent—to \$442m from \$460m—following the recent Anglo-Norwegian agreement on the joint development of the Statfjord oil and gas field.

This was revealed in an Oil Ministry White Paper on the company's plans for 1980, tabled at the weekend. At the same time, however, about \$14m will have to be knocked off its 1980 earnings, estimated at \$1,046m.

This is because the agreement revised the previous division of the field, cutting Norway's share of it to 84.1 per cent, from 88.9

per cent previously. Statoil has 50 per cent of the Norwegian part of Statfjord.

The White Paper says that Statoil expects to begin petroleum exploration off Northern Norway next year, in addition to drilling on the North Sea blocks which it was allocated in the fourth Norwegian concession round. It also plans to establish supply bases in Hammerfest, North Norway, and at Kristiansund.

Capital requirements next year are estimated \$826m. The Government will supply \$80m of this, by increasing Statoil's share capital and the rest will

be borrowed abroad by Statoil under State guarantee.

Also tabled at the weekend was a Government proposal regarding the refinancing and restructuring of Norol, the State-dominated oil refining and marketing company. As foreseen, this will involve the injection of \$20m of fresh capital into the company, through a share capital increase.

Statoil will become the controlling shareholder, with a 72.62 per cent stake, while the State will have 26.38 per cent. Norol's Saga Petroleum and some other small shareholders will sell their minority holdings in Norol.

## Elf buys out refinery interests

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

ELF-AQUITAINE, the state-controlled French oil group, has taken full control of its refining and distribution subsidiary by buying out minority interests held by Standard Oil of California and Texaco. The U.S. groups, which each held a 9.5 per cent stake in Elf-France, will continue to supply crude oil to the French group. Their

sales to Elf are believed to amount to about 6m tonnes a year.

The deal for an undisclosed sum due to be paid by the French group over a period of several years, has been on the cards for some time. Elf-France holds about 23 per cent of the market for oil products, just behind its rival,

the Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (Total) group.

The fact that Elf's purchase of the U.S. stakes took place unexpectedly soon is seen as reflecting a sharp improvement in the group's financial situation. In the first half of this year, parent company, net profits virtually doubled to FFr 1bn (\$233m).

## Credit Suisse costs on target

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZURICH

CREDIT SUISSE, Switzerland's third biggest commercial bank, expects a "satisfactory result" for 1979. Gross income developed well in the first nine months despite the reduction of mortgage rates and the rise in interest on time accounts. Costs were broadly contained within budgets.

Against the end of 1978, the bank's balance-sheet total has risen by SwFr 3,211bn to SwFr 52,511bn (\$31,811bn). The loans total rose over the period by SwFr 2,638bn to SwFr 38,441bn (\$23,938bn) and that due from banks by SwFr 1,499bn to SwFr 13,651bn (\$8,509bn). On the liabilities side of the balance sheet, the amount due to banks rose sharply by SwFr 3,661bn to SwFr 16,241bn while the sum due to customers went up by SwFr 1,051bn to SwFr 29,911bn.

The country's fourth biggest bank, Swiss Volksbank, also expects higher profits for 1979. Pressure on interest margins has continued but the bank has recorded a satisfactory expansion of loan business. In the first nine months of the year

Volksbank total assets rose by 14.3 per cent to SwFr 14,791bn (\$8,911bn).

SWISS BANKS have increased interest rates on over-the-counter medium-term bonds, Kassenobligationen. Maximum rates will go up from three to 3.25 per cent for three- and four-year bonds and from 3.5 to 3.75 per cent for seven- and eight-year maturities. Regional and Raiffeisen savings banks are permitted to increase rates by an additional 0.25 per cent. There is no change in the 3.5 per cent rate for five- and six-year bonds.

The banks last increased their maximum rates for Kassenobligationen at the start of August. The increase then was also 0.25 per cent.

At the same time, the four big banks—Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Bank Corporation, Credit Suisse and Swiss Volksbank—have again increased their rates on deposits. Three- to five-month deposits now have a rate of 2.25 (1.75) per cent, deposits over six to 11 months

2.5 (2.25) per cent and one-year deposits a rate up to 2.75 (2.5) per cent. This is the fourth change in big banks' deposit interest since mid-September.

LEADING Swiss watchmaker Asag reports a decline of 11.4 per cent in group sales to SwFr 802.2m (\$383.3m) in the first six months of 1979. However, for the year as a whole Asag feels profits can be maintained.

In the components sector, first-half sales volume fell in Swiss-made mechanical products, while those of foreign-made items and electronic components increased. There was a sharp rise in sales of electronic watches and movements, as well as other elements for electronic watches, though increased demand was "insufficient" to compensate for lower sales of traditional products.

However, order books are full and this trend is expected to continue in the second half. This Asag reckons that its results this year will be roughly the same as in 1978.

## Smaller deficit from French tyre maker

By Terry Dodsworth in Paris

THE FIRST bulletin on the reorganisation plan recently launched by Kleber, the French tyre company, shows that it has managed to cut back its losses this year, despite the impact of further increases in raw material prices.

The improvement has been only marginal so far, with losses in the first six months cut from FFr 49.6m (\$11.8m) to FFr 44.7m. But this figure has been reached after a higher depreciation charge of FFr 40.4m, against FFr 29m last year, and the company says that it its results would have been much better if they had not been held back by the increases in rubber prices.

In the first half, turnover increased by 10.3 per cent, and during the first nine months period reached FFr 1,531m, an increase of 11.1 per cent. The company says it has witnessed an "all-round improvement in sales."

A majority of the shares in Kleber, the second largest of the French tyre companies, is owned by Michelin, the dominant force in the European market. Earlier this year, the company decided to dissolve its co-operation agreement with Semperit of Austria, which had not saved it from running up heavy losses in the aftermath of the oil crisis.

Following this restructuring exercise, Kleber embarked on a wide-ranging rescue plan, which included a FFr 200m loan from Michelin (believed to have about 50 per cent of the capital), a FFr 100m bank facility, and the sale of its Paris head office and its research centre. It has also reduced its labour force, and virtually closed down one of its factories.

Kleber believes that these moves should pull it back into profit by 1981.

## Confidence at CIT-Alcatel

By Our Paris Staff

CIT-ALCATEL, the telecommunications subsidiary of CGE, the diversified French electrical engineering group, remains confident of a solid improvement in sales this year, despite a slight downturn in the first half.

Turnover in the first six months amounted to FFr 1,431m (\$381m), compared with FFr 1,701m in the same period last year. Net profits, after depreciation, provisions and taxes, amounted to FFr 33.5m against FFr 42.5m in 1978.

For the year as a whole, however, CIT is predicting a consolidated turnover increase of about 15 per cent compared with last year, and a 5 per cent advance for the parent company.

During this year, CIT has been continuing its overseas expansion, notably with contracts in Qatar and more recently in Egypt. Its recent FFr 30m agreement in Egypt to supply 42 small exchanges with a capacity of 20,000 lines, brings the total lines for which it is responsible in the country to 100,000.

## Kali und Salz sees profits rise

BY GUY HAWTIN IN FRANKFURT

A SIGNIFICANT increase in exports has pushed up the sales of Kali und Salz by 14 per cent during the first three-quarters of the year. The Kassel-based chemical group forecasts that 1979's profits should be well up on last year's figures.

According to yesterday's report, demand for potash products, which account for 64 per cent of total sales, was very lively in the international market. At home it fell back slightly, as stormy weather

reduced agricultural potash consumption.

Sales during the first nine months of the year totalled DM955m (\$528.1m). This is DM114m up on the performance during the same period of 1978.

Kali und Salz said that earnings benefited from an increase in international potash prices in virtually all export markets. Generally, the performance of the dollar on the world's foreign exchanges has also a positive effect on profits.

Demand for rock salt products, which account for 17 per cent of total sales, also showed a substantial improvement. Volume sales rose by 70 per cent compared with the first three-quarters of 1978 to 1.7m tonnes.

Capital investment during the period under review amounted to DM68m, the company said. However, total capital investment for the year as a whole is expected to amount to more than DM 120m.

## BSN-Gervais Danone lifts earnings

By Our Financial Staff

SHARPLY higher profits are reported for the first half of this year by BSN-Gervais Danone, the French glass, packaging, and foods group which last month agreed to sell a large part of its glassmaking operations to Pilkington of the UK.

Net attributable profits emerged at FFr 61m (\$14.4m) for the six months ended June, compared to FFr 41m. Total cash flow is FFr 561m, up from the FFr 397m of the opening six months of 1978. Sales for the half-year are a tenth higher at FFr 7.3bn.

Last year BSN managed to lift net attributable profits from FFr 14m to FFr 45.2m. The recovery resulted from an upsurge in earnings in foods and packaging which helped offset losses in glassmaking.

The glassmaking sale to Pilkington, which is expected to be completed early in 1980, is seen as a move by BSN towards greater concentration on the food and drink aspects of its business.

Group turnover for the first nine months of 1979 rose by 11 per cent to FFr 1,471m at domestic appliance maker, Moulinex. Parent company sales were FFr 1,261m compared to FFr 1,081m.

## French trading company faces setback in Africa

By Our Paris Staff

ONE of the major French overseas trading companies, Compagnie Francaise de l'Afrique Occidentale (CFAO), is facing losses at some of the African operations which lie at the traditional heart of its business.

The group managed to increase its net profit in the first half of this year to FFr 82.4m (\$19.6m) from FFr 65.9m in the same period last year. But, in a shareholders' letter, it said that this figure was pushed up by exceptional gains from the sale of retail outlets in Paris.

Turnover in the first half rose to FFr 3,311m from FFr 3,141m. M. Jacques Muller, the chairman, said that the expansion rate was held down by the shop disposal and by the 60 per cent devaluation of Ghana's currency, the cedi, in August last year.

The group suffered losses in Senegal and Gabon. Business in Gabon is expected to show some signs of improvement in the coming months, M. Muller said.

Warning signs about the future of France's African trading companies were fulfilled earlier this year when the SOA group, formerly Société Commerciale de l'Ouest Africain,

## Grace lifts bid for Young

SYDNEY — J. B. Young Holdings, the retail store group has recommended acceptance of an improved takeover bid from Grace Brothers Holdings, the department store concern.

The new offer from Grace values Young at A\$38.3m (U.S.\$42.6m). The initial bid, valuing Young at A\$36m, was rejected by Young.

The new offer is of one Grace share plus A\$2.30 cash for two Young shares, or a straight cash offer of A\$4.60 for two Young shares. Reuter

## Rorento expects decline in interest rates

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

RORENTO, the Dutch investment fund specialising in fixed-interest securities, has switched from short-term into long-term bonds in anticipation of a fall in world interest rates. The average life to maturity of its portfolio rose to 5.2 years from 3.9 in the six months ended in August, the fund said in its half-yearly report.

At the end of August, 60.8 per cent of its Fl 2.7bn (\$1,351m) portfolio was invested in gilt-edged, 27.2 per cent in D-Marks, 6.6 per cent in yen and 8.8 per cent in U.S. dollars. The net asset value of its Fl 50 nominal shares fell to Fl 110 in August from Fl 118 in February. Plans to amend Dutch tax rules so that investors in foreign investment companies—Rorento is domiciled on Curaçao—have to declare for income tax purposes 6 per cent of

the market value instead of 3.6 per cent led to substantial sales of Rorento shares. This persuaded the fund to remove, temporarily, the usual issue charge of about 4 per cent of the asset value from its issue costs.

The fact that Rorento's book value does not coincide with the calendar year means that it will not be affected by this change, if it becomes law, until January 1981, so a cash dividend of at most 3.6 per cent would be necessary in 1980 to maintain the 1979 cash payment.

In June Rorento paid a dividend of Fl 4.40 cash and Fl 2.50 in shares. The other Robeco group funds—Robeco, Rolinco and Rodamco—are Dutch-based, and are therefore not affected by the proposed tax change.

The Dutch Bank Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank (Amro) is

negotiating with the Swiss accounting and holding company Allgemeine Treuhand of Basel with the aim of establishing a co-operation agreement with Bank und Finanz (BFI) of Bern. Treuhand is the majority shareholder in the banking and finance company, whose other shareholders are private individuals.

No further details could be given at this early stage in the negotiations, Amro said. BFI has four branches in Switzerland and employs a staff of 100. It offers the bulk of bank savings services but concentrates on advising wealthy clients.

Amro has no direct representation in Switzerland although it has a 15 per cent stake in Compagnie de Gestion et de Banque (Gonet) of Geneva and Nyoon, which specialises in money market activities and asset

management. Amro has traditionally worked through the European Bank International Consortium (EBIC) in carrying out foreign business, but it recently started to open its own foreign branches. It now has branches in London, Dubai, Tokyo and Singapore, as well as an office in Moscow.

Algemeine Bank Nederland, one of the big three commercial banks in Holland, is to raise Fl 150m through the issue of a 15-year bond. The offering is to carry a coupon of 9 1/2 per cent and will be priced on Thursday, November 1.

Last week, in a market badly shaken by the rapid rise in interest rates in West Germany, an issue in Amsterdam by the European Investment Bank of 15-year bonds with a coupon of 9 per cent was priced at 99.



1978/79

## Improved Trading Results

It was resolved at the Annual General Meeting of Norsk Hydro a.s. held in Oslo on October 26, 1979 to pay a dividend of 12 per cent on both ordinary and preference shares.

It was further resolved to increase the company's share capital partly by increasing the par value of the shares from Nkr. 80 to Nkr. 100 by transfer from the Legal Reserve and partly by a rights issue of 2,252,694 new ordinary shares at a subscription price of Nkr. 150 per share.

The following are the key points of the report of the Directors for the financial year ended June 30, 1979.

### Financial Results

Total Group sales in the 1978/79 financial year were Nkr. 9,194 million, approximately 33 per cent above the preceding year. The greater part of the increase was due to higher production from the Ekofisk and Frigg oil and gas fields in the North Sea and to the start of regular operations at the Barmbe petrochemical plants.

Our investments in the new oil and petrochemical facilities have been very considerable, and now that they are completed depreciation has increased markedly. The fact that the company is taking advantage of the opportunity to write off its oil investments over six years has also contributed to this increase. For the 1978/79 financial year depreciation amounted to Nkr. 1,174 million, compared with Nkr. 508 million for the previous year. Operating profit after depreciation rose from Nkr. 699 million in 1977/78 to Nkr. 1,135 million this year.

Financial costs increased from Nkr. 443 million to Nkr. 749 million, and profit before year-end adjustment was Nkr. 241 million in 1977/78, and in 1978/79 petroleum activities made the largest contribution to profit.

The improvement in earnings was due to increased production, stable operating conditions, higher prices for oil and gas, and a marked rise in the income from refining and marketing.

The regularity of production from the Ekofisk fields was good. In addition to Ekofisk, West Ekofisk and Cod, production from Tor, Albuskjell and Edliff has also started. The Phillips group's total oil and gas production from the Ekofisk area amounted to around 2.7 million tonnes of oil equivalent, an increase of 37 per cent over the preceding year. Norsk Hydro's share of production was 1.8 million tonnes of oil equivalent.

On the Frigg field the last production installations came on stream in the autumn of 1978. At the same time as the Norwegian-owned gasline to St. Fergus in Scotland was put into operation, Gas deliveries were substantially increased and an annual basis amounted to 10.7 million tonnes of oil equivalent, of which Norsk Hydro's share is 2.0 per cent. Operation of the facilities has been very satisfactory. It is estimated that the maximum production level for Frigg will be reached during the next financial year, and this level is then expected to be maintained for a ten year period, after which it will begin to decline.

During the financial year Norsk Hydro has taken part in the drilling of nine exploration wells on the Norwegian continental shelf. Further finds of hydrocarbons have been made, and on block 24, 30 oil has been proven in three wells. Whether the finds that have been made are commercial can only be determined by further drilling.

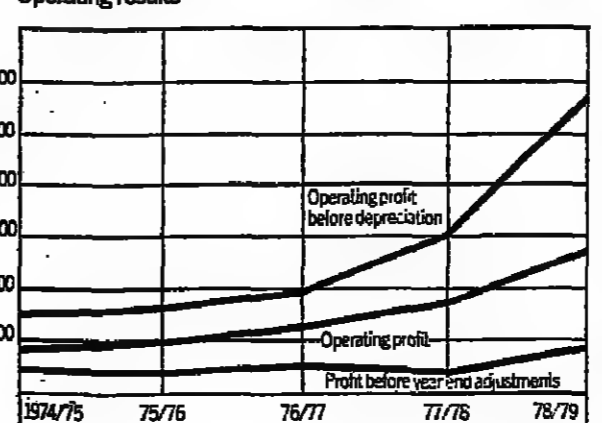
The allocation of new blocks under the fourth licensing round took place in April 1979. Norsk Hydro has given shares in four blocks; 15 per cent in block 31, 4, 12.5 per cent in block 30, 3 and 5 per cent in block 31/2. The company will be operator on block 31/2.

Investments during the financial year amounted to Nkr. 11 billion, compared with Nkr. 2.6 billion the year before. As the new plants have come into operation our capacity for self-financing has improved. While it was necessary to take up new loans in the first half year, in the second half, funds generated by operations were sufficient to cover capital requirements for investments and loan instalments. For the year as a whole, therefore there was only a modest increase in the company's long term debt.

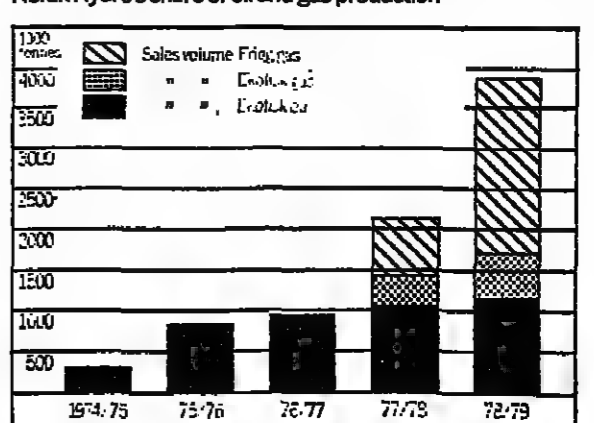
The current financial year

It seems realistic on this basis to expect that profit for the 1979/80 financial year will rise compared with 1978/79. Norsk Hydro's earnings will then approach a more normal level for similar international industry.

### Operating results



### Norsk Hydro's share of oil and gas production



Oil, gas, fertilizers, aluminium, magnesium, plastics and laminates.

Norsk Hydro

**"YOU HAVE TO MOVE FAST  
IN MICRO-ELECTRONICS.  
WHEN THE CHIPS  
WERE DOWN, THE PEOPLE  
AT MILTON KEYNES TOOK  
THEIR JACKETS OFF AND  
CAME UP WITH THE  
SOLUTION."**

JOHN LEE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEWPORT INSTRUMENTS.



CONTACT: COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WAVENDON TOWER, MILTON KEYNES MK17 8LX. TEL: MILTON KEYNES (0908) 74000.

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Companies and Markets **INTL. COMPANIES and FINANCE****Japan computer groups boost profits**

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S THREE leading telecommunications and computer manufacturers, Fujitsu, Nippon Electric Company (NEC), and Oki Electric, raised their profits sharply in the first half of the financial year. The gains reflect the strong upward trend in private capital investment.

Fujitsu lifted operating profits in the six months to September by 106.7 per cent to ¥12,660m (\$84m), and net profits by 41.2 per cent to ¥6,260m, on sales of ¥226,190m (\$967m), up 14.3 per cent over the same period in the previous year. Profits per share were ¥8.5, compared with ¥6.3.

Nippon Electric Company's operating profits advanced by 109.9 per cent to ¥9,470m (\$40m), and net profits by 82.9 per cent to ¥5,320m, on sales

of ¥322bn, up 14 per cent. Profits per share were ¥8.17, compared with ¥6.72.

Oki Electric Industry which reported sizeable losses in the previous fiscal year is back in the black and plans the resumption of dividend payments at more than ¥3 per annum. The company chalked up operating profits of ¥3,340m (\$14.2m), compared with an operating loss of ¥57m a year ago, and net profits of ¥1,450m against net losses of ¥222m. Sales of ¥74,960m were up 18 per cent.

In renewing and expanding facilities, Japanese industry has put special stress on energy saving and rationalising devices, creating new demand for computers and related terminal equipment.

At the same time demand for

semiconductors has been strong and the three companies' production could not meet domestic and overseas demand. Fujitsu raised its sales of semi-conductors by 98 per cent, while a 27.5 per cent gain was reported by NEC, and a 60 per cent increase by Oki Electric in the six months.

In the current half of the fiscal year, ending next March, Nippon Electric plans to expand semiconductor production capacity by 50 per cent and Fujitsu envisages capital investment of ¥32bn, for an increase of ¥6bn over the original plan.

In the current half of the fiscal year, the three companies are facing increases in the cost of metal materials and a higher interest payment burden resulting from the rise in interest rates. However, these factors

were taken into account in setting targets at the beginning of the fiscal year and the three manufacturers have revised their original earnings targets upward.

Fujitsu expects operating profits for the full fiscal year of ¥30bn, up 83 per cent; net profits of ¥15bn, up 40 per cent; and sales of ¥300bn, up 13 per cent.

Nippon Electric Company expects operating profits of ¥21bn, up 82 per cent; net profits of ¥11bn, up 97 per cent; and sales of ¥270bn, up 14 per cent.

Oki Electric foresees operating profits reaching ¥73bn, up 664 times; net profits of ¥3bn against deficit of ¥14bn; and sales of ¥164bn, up 20 per cent over the previous year.

**One-for-two rights from Safmarine**

JOHANNESBURG — South African Marine Corporation (Safmarine) is to make a one-for-two rights offer at a price still to be announced to strengthen the capital base for further expansion.

Safmarine's issued share capital at June 30 was 34.29m shares of 50 cents each and its authorised share capital of 40m shares will be increased by special resolution to create the additional capital.

Subject to the passing of the special resolution by a general meeting, the rights offer will be made to shareholders on the register on November 23, at a price to be announced after the meeting.

Safmarine's pre-tax profit for the year ended June 30 was R23m (\$27.8m) with earnings per share of 60 cents and an annual dividend of 17 cents.

Safmarine shares were quoted at 105 cents at mid-session today on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange after closing at 108 cents on Friday.

Reuter

**Convertible issue by Pan Electric**

By George Lee in Singapore

PAN ELECTRIC Industries has announced a rights issue of S\$4 nominal of convertible loan stock for every ten shares held. The loan stock, which will be issued at par, will carry a coupon of 9 per cent and will be convertible into fully paid ordinary shares of S\$0.50 each in the company at the rate of S\$1.58 nominal of loan stock for each ordinary share.

The last transacted price of Pan Electric before the announcement was S\$1.43 per share. The rights issue will raise S\$15.91m (US\$7.3m) for the group which is largely involved in marine salvage, rig and shipbuilding, and the manufacture of domestic appliances.

Pan Electric said that the proceeds will be utilised principally in the salvage and marine subsidiaries and the balance in the domestic appliances and ship-repair subsidiaries of the group.

Its salvaging subsidiary, Selco Salvage, it said, has embarked on a programme of fleet improvement to strengthen its position as the leading salvor east of Suez and to prepare itself to take advantage of the increase in towage requirements for VLCCs and large oil rigs. This will also involve the acquisition of newer and larger tugs to replace some of the smaller and older tugs.

Another subsidiary, Selco Shipyard, intends to purchase additional machinery and equipment and to make improvements to the shipyard.

The company earlier this month disclosed sharply improved results for the first half of this year. Pre-tax profits for the six months ended June 1979 quadrupled to S\$945,000 and second half profits are expected to show a substantial improvement over those for the first.

**Threat to dollar link in Bahrain**

BY MARY FRINGS IN SAHRAIN

CONCERN IS growing in Bahrain about the measures being devised to stem the outward flow of capital, as major depositors switch funds from dinars into dollars.

Although no immediate action followed the meeting of the Bahrain Monetary Agency Board last week, the Board discussed what was thought to be a remedial package to loosen the official link between the dinar and the dollar, and to add an element of uncertainty to the exchange rate.

The stability of the dinar-dollar exchange rate has encouraged capital to take advantage of relatively high dollar interest rates.

There is no doubt in the minds of market observers that unless interest rates are allowed to rise, which seems unlikely for domestic reasons, the BMA must introduce a greater degree of uncertainty on the rate at which dinars might be repurchased in the future. This could be achieved by a series of small but unpredictable revaluations of the type recently seen in Qatar and the UAE. Alternatively, a widening of the traditionally narrow gap between BMA buying and selling rates holds out the prospect of a certain degree of loss on conversion, even if there has not been a parity revaluation.

It is thought here that such a measure might be partly successful in discouraging the outward flow of funds, but that

money market intervention to supply liquidity to the banking system may have to continue, as it is unlikely that a significant return of capital will be achieved until the interest rate differential is narrowed.

The BMA is well known for its active and determined intervention in the short-term money market, but is likely to become increasingly alert for signs that the dinars it creates through its dollar swap operations are being used to finance holdings in higher yielding currencies. The Agency has always had full co-operation in this respect from banks in Bahrain, but dinars that have been lent to banks elsewhere in the Gulf are more likely to be converted into dollars, or even dirhams, for example.

The BMA therefore has to pick a careful path between the two extremes—of interest rates that are too low to attract depositors and which encourage borrowing, and rates which are too high to be acceptable to the local trading community.

The last time similar circumstances prevailed was in 1974, a time when Gulf money markets and depositors were far less experienced than they are now. This new test of the ability of Gulf monetary authorities is therefore being watched in the market with keen interest. The prospect is also opened up for increased activity in external markets for Gulf currencies. Because of the regulations in force in many Gulf countries,

concerning interest rates paid to domestic depositors, the interbank market in Gulf currencies now operates at significantly higher levels than the rates allowed for customer deposits.

Banks outside a particular country can therefore offer depositors better rates than available locally. The funds are then re-lent to local banks at interbank rates—a state of affairs almost certain to bring renewed complaints from Kuwait, about competition from offshore banking units in Bahrain.

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait cautioned this weekend that local banks face a sharp depletion in liquid assets as a result of a "massive exodus of funds".

The bank said in its weekly report that there was "considerable instability" in local money markets, because of the flight of funds to investments carrying higher interest rates abroad.

Last week local commercial banks had to rely on liquid deposits supplied by the Central Bank to offset the liquidity shortage, according to the report.

The shortage raised interest on one-day loans from 6 to 11 per cent, and on one-week loans from 8.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent. This caused panic among dealers and uncertainty in local money markets about the future levels of interest rates on short-term loans, the report added.

**CHEUNG KONG****The emergence of a hong**

BY PHILIP BOWRING IN HONG KONG

CHEUNG KONG earlier this month became the first local Chinese owned company to gain effective control of a European hong, or diversified trading and investment house, when it bought for HK\$639m (around \$120m) a 22.3 per cent stake in Hutchison Whampoa from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The deal has made Cheung Kong's founder, chairman and controlling shareholder Mr. Li Ka-shing the most talked about businessman in a town where most talk is about business and businessmen.

The purchase brought to a climax an extraordinarily active three years for Mr. Li and Cheung Kong, with a succession of deals which should mean after tax earnings, before extraordinary items, leaping from HK\$35m in 1977 and HK\$132m last year, to over HK\$300m (US\$40m) this year. Leading brokers suggest that earnings in 1980 may top HK\$500m.

Cheung Kong has based its progress from a medium-sized property development company partly on the surge in lending in Hong Kong over the past two years to finance the property boom. Bank advances have doubled in that period, with building and property loans in the lead.

The surprise deal with the

Hongkong Bank coincided with two developments which were apparently unrelated but help to explain the sharp rise in prominence of Mr. Li and his company. The first was the opening of Hong Kong's Mass Transit Railway. Cheung Kong moved from the middle to the top rank of the property field here by outbidding better known names to develop com-

Cheung Kong's purchase of an effective controlling stake in Hutchison Whampoa has made Mr. Li Ka-shing, its chairman, the most talked about businessman in Hong Kong, where most talk is about business and businessmen.

Commercial properties above station sites in Hong Kong's central business district. The second is symbolised by Mr. Li's appointment this month as a director of the China International Trust and Investment Corporation, the company established by Peking to act as a channel for tapping the capital and skills of overseas Chinese into China's modernisation.

China has looked to him as its partner for its two biggest joint-venture developments in Hong Kong. China has been added by Mr. Li to a long list of Hong Kong partners, including such names as the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Hongkong Electric Company, Wheelock Marden and Sun Hung Kai Properties.

Cheung Kong itself started moving ahead rapidly again in 1978. A large private share placement of HK\$5.60 raised HK\$113m. Then in 1977 Cheung Kong bought Wynneer, the owner of the Hong Kong Hilton. With tourism starting to boom again after the recession, the Hilton became a valuable source of recurrent earnings.

In the same year, Cheung Kong won the development contracts for the two MTR station's office blocks, offering a minimum guaranteed price to the MTR and 50 per cent of all sales profits above that level. By the time Cheung Kong came to sell the space—as yet unbuilt on—a year later, the property boom was up and away. Cheung Kong stands to have netted more than HK\$300m on sales from those two properties of about HK\$800m.

A 1978 move was to build up a 15 per cent plus stake in the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf Company. Mr. Li had been aiming for a controlling minority stake. But the share price rose sharply. So he sold out to shipping magnate, Sir Y. K. Pao. In the process netting

a dealing profit of more than HK\$50m. Another market raid gained Cheung Kong a 25 per cent plus stake in Green Island Cement, which led to a joint venture to develop the cement company's surplus land.

Mr. Li's joint ventures are all different but, essentially fall into three main categories:

● Those with large partners in which, as with the MTR, Cheung Kong gives minimum guarantees, and otherwise splits the profit. This provides risk free returns for the land-owning partner.

● Profit sharing deals, mostly with smaller companies which lack development and sales expertise or cash to develop.

● Joint ventures with other developers who agree to share scarce land.

A look at the 1978 accounts shows part of the story. The group at that date was to some extent undergaraged. Group term loans and deferred liabilities totalled only HK\$ 316m, compared with shareholders' funds of HK\$ 736m, even though assets have not been revalued recently.

However, the notes to the accounts reveal that commitments and contingent liabilities for construction contracts, guarantees, sales, acquisition commitments and guarantees for facilities granted to associates amounted to a total of HK\$ 1.5bn. Against that Cheung Kong had forward sales contracts of HK\$ 819m.

The 1979 accounts will show a further leap in these commitments.

When it bought into Hutchison, Cheung Kong stated that the cash flow from developments sold in 1978 and 1979 alone would cover all its debts including the money needed to buy the Hutchison stake.

Properties already sold and expected to be completed next year offer to produce more than HK\$ 1.2bn in cash and HK\$500m in profits. However, Cheung Kong has to face the fact that the bull property market has been blazer and longer than many could have expected. It has produced spectacular holding gains, most remarkably on the MTR sites. The pre-sales system gives developers some security, but downpayments—an initial 5-10 per cent—amount to little more than option money.

Though there is almost insatiable demand for housing in Hong Kong, there is no guarantee that more and more people are going to be able to afford it at ever higher land, building, and interest costs. Longer term investors, knowing that even property can go down in Hong Kong, may want to see a higher level of recurrent earnings.

**Dart Industries, Inc.**

has sold its

**International Plastic Packaging Operations**

to subsidiaries of the U. K. Company

**Rockware Group Limited**

The undersigned acted as financial advisor to Dart Industries, Inc. in this transaction.

**Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb**

Incorporated

NEW YORK • ATLANTA • BOSTON • CHICAGO • DALLAS  
HOUSTON • LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO • LONDON • TOKYO

October 30, 1979

All of these Securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

**U.S. \$30,000,000****Hill Samuel Group Limited****Floating Rate Notes Due 1992**

MORGAN STANLEY INTERNATIONAL

BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS

DEUTSCHE BANK

HILL SAMUEL &amp; CO.

CITICORP INTERNATIONAL GROUP

KREDITSBANK INTERNATIONAL GROUP

LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL

BANQUE ARABE ET INTERNATIONALE D'INVESTISSEMENT (B.A.I.I.)

ALGEMENE BANK NEDERLAND N.V.

ARNHOLD AND S. BLEICHOEDER, INC.

BANCA DEL COTTAIO

BANCA NATIONALE DEL LAVORO

BANCO URQUIJO HISPANO AMERICANO

BANCO DE VIECAYA

BANK MEES &amp; HOPE NV

BANKERS TRUST INTERNATIONAL

BANQUE FRANCAISE DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR

BANQUE DE L'INDOCHINE ET DE SUEZ

BANQUE LOUIS DREYFUS

BANQUE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS

BANQUE DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE

BARING BROTHERS &amp; CO.

BAYERISCHE LANDESBANK GROSZENTRALE

BERGEN BANK

BERLINER HANDELS-UND FRANKFURTER BANK

CHASE MANHATTAN

COMMERCIAL BANK

CREDIT COMMERCIAL DE FRANCE

CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL

CREDIT ANSTALT-BANKVEREIN

DAI-ICHI KANGYO BANK NEDERLAND N.V.

DAIWA EUROPE N.Y.

DEUTSCHE GROSZENTRALE

DEUTSCHE GENOSSENSCHAFTSBANK

DILLON, READ OVERSEAS CORPORATION

EUROPEAN BANKING COMPANY

GOLDMAN SACHS INTERNATIONAL CORP.

HANDELSBANK N.Y. (OVERSEAS)

HILL SAMUEL PACIFIC

ISTITUTO BANCARIO SAN PAOLO DI TORINO

KLEINWORT, BENSON

KUHNS LOEB LEHMAN BROTHERS

LAZARD BROTHERS &amp; CO.

MITSUBISHI BANK (EUROPE) S.A.

MORGAN GUARANTY

THE NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK (SAUDI ARABIA)

THE NIKKO SECURITIES CO. (EUROPE) LTD.

NIPPON KANGYO KAKUMARU (EUROPE)

SAL. OPPENHEIM JR. &amp; CIE.

POSTPANKER

SAEHAN MERCHANT BANKING CORPORATION

SANWA BANK (UNDERWRITERS)

SMITH BARNET, HARRIS UPHAM &amp; CO.

SUMITOMO FINANCE INTERNATIONAL

UNION BANK OF FINLAND LTD.

WARDLEY

DEAN WITTE REYNOLDS INTERNATIONAL

29th October, 1979

ABU DHABI INVESTMENT COMPANY

AMSTERDAM-ROTTERDAM BANK N.V.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA

BANCO DE BILBAO

BANCO DI ROMA

BANK OF AMERICA INTERNATIONAL

BANQUE BRUXELLES LANBERT S.A.

BANQUE GENERALE DU LUXEMBOURG S.A.

BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG S.A.

BANQUE ROTHSCHILD

BARCLAYS BANK INTERNATIONAL

BAYERISCHE HYPOTHEKEN-UND WECHSEL-BANK

BEAR, STEARNS &amp; CO.

CAISSE DES DEPOTS ET CONSIGNATIONS

CHRISTIANA BANK OG KREDITKASSE

COUNTY BANK

CREDIT LYONNAIS

DEN NORSKE CREDITBANK

EUROMOBILIARE S.p.A.

FUJI INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

HAMBROS BANK

HESSISCHE LANDESBANK

KIDDER, PEAODY INTERNATIONAL

KREDBANK N.Y.

KOREA ASSOCIATED SECURITIES INC.

KUWAIT FOREIGN TRADING CONTRACTING &amp; INVESTMENT CO. (S.A.E.)

KUWAIT INVESTMENT COMPANY (S.A.E.)

MERRILL LYNCH INTERNATIONAL &amp; CO.

MORGAN GRENPELL &amp; CO.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT S.A.E.

NEW JAPAN SECURITIES EUROPE

NIPPON EUROPEAN BANK S.A.

NORDDEUTSCHE LANDESBANK

PEBANKEN

N. M. ROTHSCHILD &amp; SONS

SALOMON BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL

SKANDINAVISKA ENSKILDA BANKEN

SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE S.A.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT BANK

S. G. WARBURG &amp; CO. LTD.

WILLIAMS, GLEN &amp; CO.

YAMAICHI INTERNATIONAL (NEDERLAND) N.Y.

**COASTAL PETROLEUM (FAR EAST) PTE. LTD.,**

a unit of Coastal States Gas Corporation,

announces the opening  
of its trading office  
in Singapore

For more information, contact:

Douglas H. Miller, managing director  
Coastal Petroleum (Far East) Pte. Ltd.  
3805 O.C.B.C. Centre  
Chulia Street  
Singapore

Telephone: Singapore 2235300

Telefax: RS 33164 Coastat

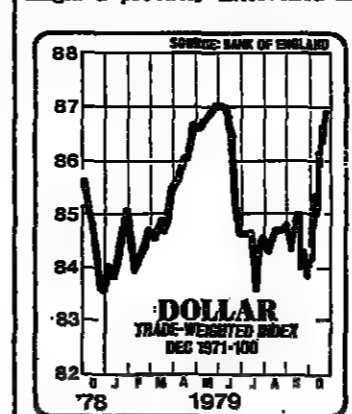
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## Dollar firm

Scheduled Territories; (t) tourist rate; (Bs) basic rate; (bg) buying rate; (Bk) bankers' rate; (cm) commercial rate; (cn) convertible rate; (fn) financial rate; (exC) exchange certificate rate; (k) Scheduled Territory; (nc) non-commercial rate; (nom) nominal; (or) official rate; (sg) selling rate.

the UK until New York opened. When the pound fell to a low point of \$2.0950-2.0960. It had opened at \$2.1040-2.1060, and touched a best level of \$2.1080-2.1090 in the morning. Before lunch sterling fell to \$2.1050-2.1060 once again in very thin trading, where the Bank of England probably intervened in



a small way, and again in the afternoon. Sterling closed at \$2.0665-2.0965, a fall of 85 points on the day.

The pound's trade-weighted index, as calculated by the Bank of England, was unchanged at 87.5, after standing at 87.5 in the noon and 87.5 in the morning.

The dollar's index, on Bank of England figures, rose to 86.5 from 86.5. The U.S. currency rose to DM 1.8115 against the mark from DM 1.8045, after trading within a range of DM 1.8045 to DM 1.8133. The dollar improved to SwFr 1.6510 from SwFr 1.6676 against the Swiss franc, and to Y235.90 from Y234.30 in terms of the Japanese yen.

**FRANKFURT** — The Bundesbank did not intervene when the dollar was fixed at DM 1.8120.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	
ECU cent	Current amount against £
100	16.36
200	32.72
300	49.08
400	65.44
500	81.80
600	98.16
700	114.52
800	130.88
900	147.24
1000	163.60
1100	179.96
1200	196.32
1300	212.68
1400	229.04
1500	245.40
1600	261.76
1700	278.12
1800	294.48
1900	310.84
2000	327.20
2100	343.56
2200	359.92
2300	376.28
2400	392.64
2500	409.00
2600	425.36
2700	441.72
2800	458.08
2900	474.44
3000	490.80
3100	507.16
3200	523.52
3300	539.88
3400	556.24
3500	572.60
3600	588.96
3700	605.32
3800	621.68
3900	638.04
4000	654.40
4100	670.76
4200	687.12
4300	703.48
4400	719.84
4500	736.20
4600	752.56
4700	768.92
4800	785.28
4900	801.64
5000	818.00
5100	834.36
5200	850.72
5300	867.08
5400	883.44
5500	899.80
5600	916.16
5700	932.52
5800	948.88
5900	965.24
6000	981.60
6100	997.96
6200	1014.32
6300	1030.68
6400	1047.04
6500	1063.40
6600	1079.76
6700	1096.12
6800	1112.48
6900	1128.84
7000	1145.20
7100	1161.56
7200	1177.92
7300	1194.28
7400	1210.64
7500	1227.00
7600	1243.36
7700	1259.72
7800	1276.08
7900	1292.44
8000	1308.80
8100	1325.16
8200	1341.52
8300	1357.88
8400	1374.24
8500	1390.60
8600	1406.96
8700	1423.32
8800	1439.68
8900	1456.04
9000	1472.40
9100	1488.76
9200	1505.12
9300	1521.48
9400	1537.84
9500	1554.20
9600	1570.56
9700	1586.92
9800	1603.28
9900	1619.64
10000	1636.00

[illegible]

	Day's spread	Close	One month	p.a.	Three months	p.a.
29	2,090.2-2,109.0	2,095.2-2,108.2	62.23-62.32c	-1.58	62.36-62.45pm	-0.18
London	2,075.2-2,094.0	2,080.2-2,093.2	62.23-62.32c	-1.58	62.36-62.45pm	-0.18
Frankfurt	2,075.2-2,094.0	2,080.2-2,093.2	62.23-62.32c	-1.58	62.36-62.45pm	-0.18
Paris	2,075.2-2,094.0	2,080.2-2,093.2	62.23-62.32c	-1.58	62.36-62.45pm	-0.18
Amsterdam	2,075.2-2,094.0	2,080.2-2,093.2	62.23-62.32c	-1.58	62.36-62.45pm	-0.18
Stockholm	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Oslo	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Copenhagen	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Geneva	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Basel	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Brussels	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Madrid	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Barcelona	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Valencia	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Seville	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Granada	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Malaga	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Almeria	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Jaen	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Cordoba	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Sevilla	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Granada	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Malaga	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
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Sevilla	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Granada	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m	15-5 p	-9.15
Malaga	11:18-11:21	11:20-11:23	5c-5m-5p	-2m		

Oct. 95	Bank rate	Special Drawing Rights	European Currency Unit	Oct. 95	Bank of England	Morgan Guaranty changes
Finland	14	0.618126	1.064939	Swedish	87.5	-37.9
France	14	1.368257	2.203710	U.S. dollar	89.0	-5.2
Germany	14	1.583577	1.66806	Canadian dollar	50.5	0.0
Greece	24	1.940019	17.80021	Dutch guilder	114.0	+24.0
Irish Republic	14	0.785252	1.275759	Belgian franc	114.6	+24.6
Italy	14	0.907296	1.753759	Danish kroner	156.0	+44.0
Japan	8	3.526317	4.06867	French franc	165.0	+39.0
Netherlands	14	3.749000	4.296400	West German mark	165.0	+39.0
Portugal	14	4.56867	5.03994	Swiss franc	100.0	-7.0
Spain	14	1.660000	1.660000	Denmark	195.9	+6.9
Sweden	18	1.040000	1.145537	British pound	94.7	-49.0
Switzerland	14	2.036800	2.036800	Irish lire	121.0	+1.0
United Kingdom	7	6.47486	6.01783	Yen		
United States	8	66.4473	61.9211			
West Germany	14	1.583577	1.66806			
Yugoslavia	1	Unaval.	1.35666			

Based on data weighted changes from Washington Post, December, 1997 (Bank of England index = 100).

Oct. 30	A	B	C	Notes
gentino peso	\$180.880	1517.1585	Austria	\$7.00-88.00
Australia dollar	1.8976-1.9076	0.9050-0.9070	Belgium	68.40-68.60
£ sterling	53.47-54.37	0.7025-0.7035	Denmark	16.00-16.10
£ franc	1.69-1.71	70.70-71.00	France	8.25-8.50
£ schilling	10.88-10.97	37.17-37.25	Germany	2.75-2.85
£ krona	47.5-51.5	0.0490-0.0495	Italy	1.70-1.80
£ rial	0.585-0.590	70.70-71.00	Japan	4.94-5.04
£ florin (DIN)	61.20-61.30	0.2779-0.2780	Netherlands	1.14-1.15
£ franc (FR)	61.20-61.30	89.80-89.85	Norway	1.00-1.05
£ krona	4.69-4.70	0.162-0.163	Sweden	1.00-1.05
£ peseta	5.15-5.16	1.0298-1.0307	Spain	128-144
£ dirham (Arab)	7.00-7.10	3.765-3.7715	Switzerland	2.95-3.00
£ guilder	4.8350-4.8360	1.7424-1.7425	United States	40-41
£ piastre	1.7424-1.7425	0.2385-0.2392	Yugoslavia	40-41
African Rand				

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU October 20	% change from central rate	% change advised by divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc	36.3654	40.1167	+10.9	+0.69	+1.53
Danish Krone	7.46033	7.52269	+0.83	+0.13	+0.96
German D-Mark	2.49637	2.48898	-0.31	-0.13	+1.725
French Franc	1.65522	1.52171	-8.57	-0.87	+1.725
Dutch Guilder	2.74768	2.70351	-1.60	-0.87	+1.676
Irish Punt	6.69147	6.68923	-0.03	+0.80	+1.691
Italian Lira	1199.42	1146.00	-4.18	-1.08	+1.691

Changes are for ECU denominated positive change denotes a financial time

	Oct. 59	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschmark	Japanese Yen
Pound Sterling	1	2.096	1	8.800	494.5
U.S. Dollar	0.477	1	1.218	1	289.8
Deutschmark	0.268	0.662	1	1	120.1
Japanese Yen	2.028	4.239	7.686	1	1000.
French Franc 100	1.129	2.260	4.279	856.9	1
Swiss Franc	0.884	0.995	1.079	140.5	1
Dutch Guilder	0.227	0.498	0.900	117.1	1
Italian Lira 1,000	0.578	1.199	2.178	368.5	1
Canadian Dollar	0.408	0.848	1.628	196.5	1
Belgian Franc 100	1.668	3.422	6.404	807.5	1

	Oct. 29	sterling	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar	Dutch Guilder	Sw
short term.....	14 1/4	14 1/4-14 1/2	13-14	8 1/2-8 3/4		
7 days' notice.....	14-14 1/4	14 1/4-14 1/2	13-14	8 1/2-8 3/4		
Month.....	14 1/4-14 1/2	14 1/4-14 1/2	14-14 1/4	8 1/2-8 3/4		
three months.....	14 1/4-14 1/2	14 1/4-14 1/2	14-14 1/4	8 1/2-8 3/4		
six months.....	14 1/4-14 1/2	14 1/4-14 1/2	14-14 1/4	8 1/2-8 3/4		
one year.....	14 1/4-14 1/2	14 1/4-14 1/2	14-14 1/4	8 1/2-8 3/4		

## German rates down

Interbank interest rates fell quite sharply in Germany yesterday. Frankfurt call money declined to 7.07-7.50 per cent from 8.00-8.50 per cent; one-month to 8.60-8.80 per cent from 8.80-9.00 per cent; and three-month to 9.00-9.20 per cent from 9.60-9.80 per cent. Six-month trend. Ban Hin Lee Bank raised its rate by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to 9 per cent; Bank of Canton by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent; Bank of New York by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent; Chartered Bank by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to 9 per cent; and Dresdner Bank by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent.

# Small help

**NEW YORK**—Federal funds rates continued to rise in early trading today, as the market anticipated that Treasury bills were quoted at 11.90 per cent and 26-week at 12.10 per cent.

**WASHINGTON**—Bank prime rates continued their upward

supply in the London money market yesterday, and the market's general assistance came by buying a small amount of Treasury bills, a small amount of local currency and a small amount of eligible bank bills from the discount houses. All the bills will be resold to the market at fixed future dates.

**LONDON MONEY RATES**

NEW YORK		Overnight...	18½-14½
Prime Rate	15-15½	7 days or	—
90-day commercial paper	16-16½	14 days notice	—
Treasury Bills (13-week)	11.50	One month	14½-14½
Treasury Bills (26-week)	12.10	Two months	14½-14½
GERMANY		Three months	14½-14½
Overnight Rate	5	Six months	14½-14½
One month	7.25	Nine months	14½-14½
Three months	8.70	One year	14½-14½
Six months	9.15	Two years	14½-14½
FRANCE		Local currency and Finance House	
Discount Rate	9.5	rates nominally three years 13½-13½	
Overnight Rate	11.025	percent in table are buying rates for prime	
One month	12.125	trading	
Three months	12.625	Approximate selling rates for	
Six months	12.875	three months 13½-14½-15½ per cent. Ay	
JAPAN		per cent and three-month 14½ per cent	
Discount Rate	5.25	monthly 14½ per cent	
Call (Unconditional)	6.8125	Finance House Base Rates (publ	
Treasury Bills (three-month)	7.8125	Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for summe	

## Slight fall

in quiet trading, was fixed at \$373-375, and was bid at \$374.50 in the morning, \$374.00 in the afternoon. Metal touched a high point at \$374-376, and a lowest level at \$371-373.

Paris the 12 1/2 kilo gold bar fixed at FF 51,900 per kilo

London the 12 1/2 kilo gold bar fixed at £373-375, and was bid at £374.50 in the morning, £374.00 in the afternoon. Metal touched a high point at £374-376, and a lowest level at £371-373.

Frankfurt the 12 1/2 kilo bar was fixed at DM 21,896 per kilo (\$572.98 per ounce) compared with DM 21,860 (\$574.80) previously.

Gold Bullion (time ounce)				
999.95	\$372.75	\$372.75-178.50	\$374.277	(2177.749.3)
999.9	\$372.75	\$372.75-178.75	\$374.277	(2177.0.174.9)
999 fine	\$374.50	(2177.550)	\$374.80	(2177.504)
999 moon flings	\$374.00		\$375.00	(2178.147)
Gold Coins				
1926-1928	\$294.355	(2191.19514)	\$279.288	(2120.185)
1929-1935	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1936-1938	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1939-1945	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1946-1950	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1951-1955	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1956-1960	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1961-1965	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1966-1970	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1971-1975	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1976-1980	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1981-1985	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1986-1990	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1991-1995	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
1996-2000	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2001-2005	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2006-2010	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2011-2015	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2016-2020	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2021-2025	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2026-2030	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2031-2035	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2036-2040	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2041-2045	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2046-2050	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2051-2055	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2056-2060	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2061-2065	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2066-2070	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2071-2075	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2076-2080	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2081-2085	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2086-2090	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2091-2095	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2096-2100	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2101-2105	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2106-2110	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2111-2115	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2116-2120	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2121-2125	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2126-2130	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2131-2135	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2136-2140	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2141-2145	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2146-2150	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2151-2155	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2156-2160	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2161-2165	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.388	(2176.182)
2166-2170	\$279.388	(18176.182)	\$279.3	

banks brought forward small surplus balances, but this was outweighed by a moderate net drop of Treasury bills. Discount houses paid 13½-13¾ per cent for secured call loans in the early part, and closing prices were taken at 13¾-14.

Short-term fixed period interest rates showed changes, with three-month inter-bank money firming to 14½-14¾ per cent from 14½-14¾ per cent, while nine-month eased to 14½-14¾ per cent from 14½-14¾ per cent.

Rates in the table below are

%	Local Authority negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discounted market deposits	Treasury Bills 9	Eligible Bank Bills 9	Fine Trade Bills 9
1 1/2%	—	—	1 1/2	1 1/2-1 1/4	—	—	—
1 3/4%	—	—	1 3/4	1 3/4-1 3/8	—	—	—
1 5/8%	1 5/8-1 5/16	1 5/8	1 5/8	1 5/8-1 5/16	1 5/8-1 5/16	1 5/8-1 5/16	1 5/8
1 3/4%	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4
1 3/4%	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4
1 3/4%	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4
1 3/4%	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4
1 3/4%	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4
1 3/4%	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4	1 3/4	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4-1 3/8	1 3/4


days notice, other seven days fixed. \*Long-term local authority mortgage  
 four years 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent five years 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. @ Bank bill  
 Buying rates four-month bank bills 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 per cent four-month  
 Treasury bills 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent two-months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent three  
 months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent four-months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent two-months 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 -month trade bills 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent two-months 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent and three-  
 by the Finance Houses Association) 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent from October 1, 1973.  
 ran days notice 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 14 per  
 discount 13.6713 per cent.

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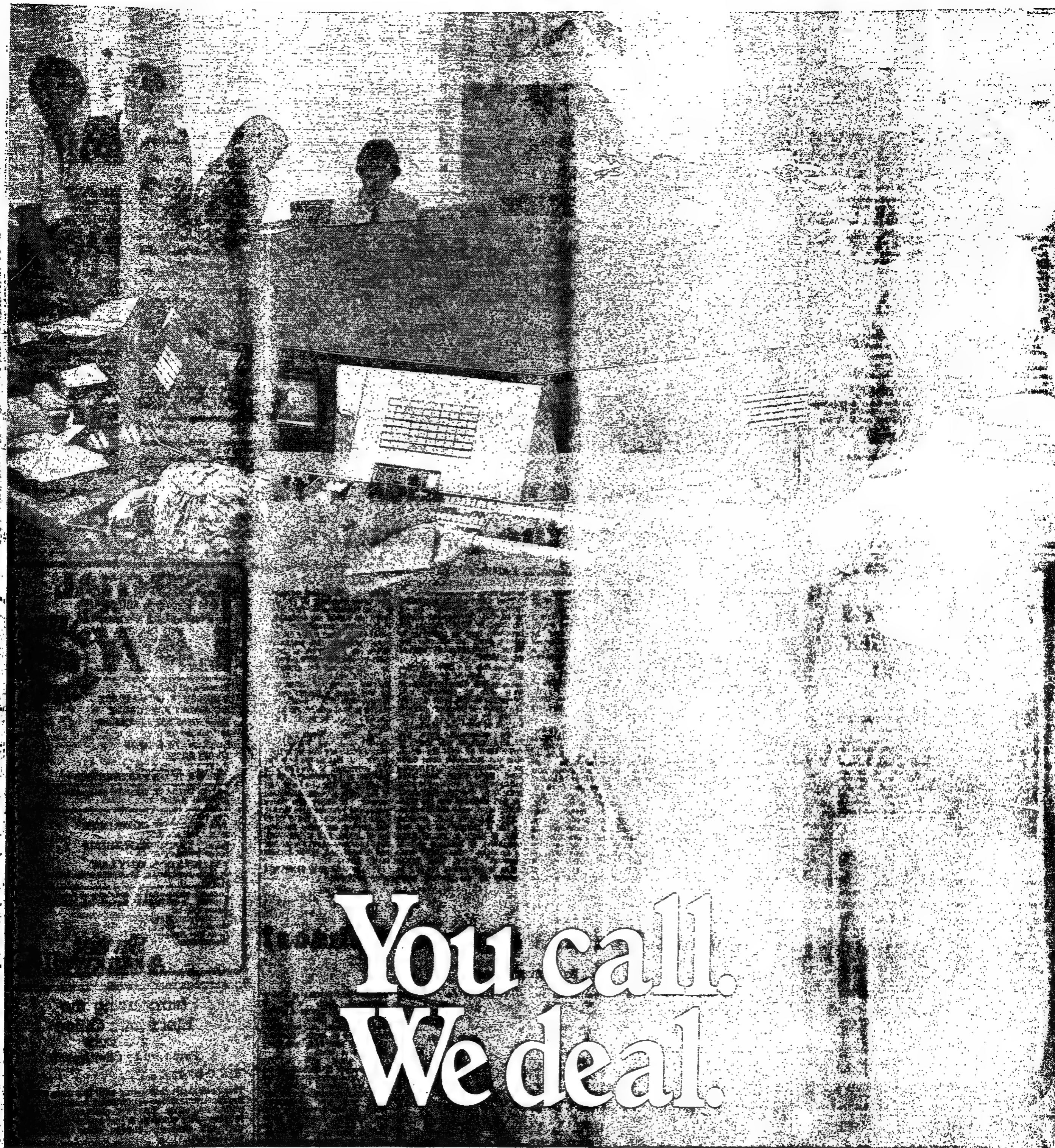
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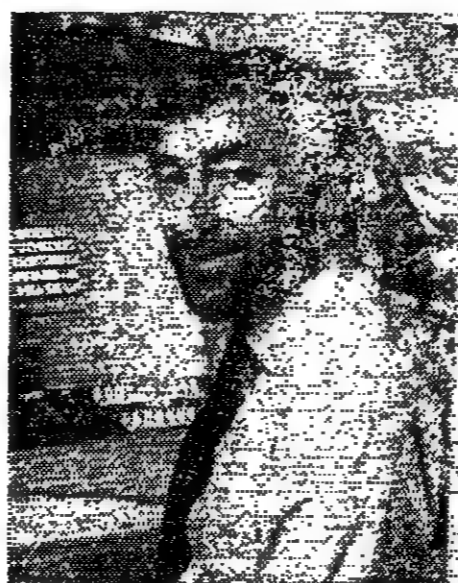
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## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Announcements below are pre-paid advertisements. If you require entry in the forthcoming panels application should be made to the Advertisement Department, Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, EC4A 3DF. Telephone: 01-248 8000. Ext. 7062.

## A Practical Approach to Management Accounting

John Gibbs  
A companion volume to A Practical Approach to Financial Management, of which the FT said: "For all those who have long felt the need for something more down to earth, this comes as a welcome relief."  
RFL (Publishers) Ltd. £5.95

## The Manager and Industrial Relations

Trevor Owen, Remploy Ltd., UK  
Looks at industrial relations from the point of view of the practising manager, explaining with great clarity, what actually happens in the workplace and the reasons why it happens the way it does.  
Pergamon Press  
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## Pension Planning Within a Major Company

R. J. Lucas, formerly of British Leyland Ltd., UK  
A case study of the negotiations between British Leyland and its manual workers' unions which resulted in the decision to adopt a pension plan for these employees.  
Pergamon Press  
Hardcover £12.50

## World Textile Trade—An International Perspective

Includes frank discussion of the diverse views on world trade of the major textile producing countries, international organisations and trade unions. A unique record with a truly international perspective.  
The Textile Institute, Manchester  
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## Textile Terms and Definitions—7th Edition

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The Textile Institute, Manchester  
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ISBN 0 900739 17 7 HB £17.00

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British Overseas Trade Board (Export House—E43).  
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## Retirement: Can You Afford It?

Paul Clemenston and Terry Arthur  
This practical guide to financial planning helps to lead readers through the complex pensions jungle. It not only covers providing in advance for retirement, but also explains how pension schemes are created and how they work.  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.  
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## Financial Assistance for Industry and Commerce in the UK

This useful, up-to-date guide to Government help and incentives includes, as an appendix, the proposed changes in the designation of assisted areas and in the availability of regional development grants announced on 17 July 1979.  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.  
£3.95

## Added Value in External Financial Reporting

Michael Renshall, Richard Allan and Keith Nicholson  
Report of a study commissioned to evaluate the merits of including a statement of added value in company reports. It suggests that added value information would significantly enhance the quality of British company accounts.  
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The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.  
£1.20

## Checking the Firm's Performance

Derek Saunders  
This new booklet in the series "Notes for Businessmen" aims to explain in simple terms how ratio analysis can help the businessman to identify the financial strengths and weaknesses of his business and to make sensible comparisons with others.  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.  
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## Financial and Cost Accounting for Management

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This Handbook forms a useful aid for students preparing for both professional and degree level examinations in labour law and industrial law. The new edition brings the text up to date as the law stood at 1st February 1979.  
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Macdonald & Evans Ltd.  
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## The German Standard Contracts Act

Harry Silberberg  
This book provides an extensive introduction to the German Standard Contracts Act, 1977, followed by the German text of the Act, together with translation. The introduction has been written with the needs of foreign lawyers and businessmen in mind.  
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## Acta Monetaria—1979 (Yearbook of Monetary System and Monetary Policy)

Edited by Gerhard Merk  
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## Readings in Inflation Accounting

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## BUSINESS BOOKS

## Digestible chemical statistics

BY SUE CAMERON

European Chemical Industry Handbook: A guide to the West European Chemical Process Industry. Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar, 1, Moorgate, London EC2R 6AA. £75.

THE European Chemical Industry Handbook just published by Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar, a firm of brokers and analysts, is nothing if not impressive. The sheer breadth of the information it contains must make it a useful addition to the library of anyone with connections in the chemical industry.

Hedderwick has produced chemical industry guides before but in the past the data has always been strongly centred on the UK. Considering the international nature of the chemical industry in terms of companies,

raw materials, prices and production capacity, Hedderwick's decision to take a broader, European, view is, if anything, overdue.

But having taken the plunge, the firm has made a thorough job of it. The marathon task of editing this heavy tome fell to Stuart Walmesley, a research partner and chemicals specialist at Hedderwick. Mr. Walmesley is to be congratulated on presenting such a weight of statistics in a form that is reasonably easy to digest.

The facts and figures covered by the guide are certainly comprehensive. They range from chemicals turnover according to country—that for the UK was \$28,608m last year, higher than for any other West European country except Germany—to detailed financial information

on the major individual chemical companies. One of the appendices even includes a neat list of the main chemicals produced in Europe plus their end uses and the names of those who make them.

The handbook is divided into three sections covering general data, products and companies. It comes in a loose leaf binder so that it can be constantly updated. Mr. Walmesley says in the introduction that it is hoped that the handbook will provide a foundation "on which to build an expanding collection of statistics as they become available."

He also points out that the guide is intended as a complementary reference work to Hedderwick's newsletters on chemicals and pharmaceuticals. It is not meant to be a thorough-

going commentary on the European chemicals scene—the text has been incorporated as a skeletal framework for the statistical content.

The list of sources for the information given in the guide is a long one. The majority of them are publicly available but the value of the handbook is that it saves users the time-consuming task of collating and comparing yards of statistics from national publications with those of the UN, the European Commission and the European Council of Chemical Manufacturers' Federations, to name but a few.

This is probably the first time an attempt has been made to produce an all-embracing and yet detailed guide to Europe's chemical industry. The advent of this new style handbook is therefore to be welcomed.

## A logical pricing policy

BY BARRY RILEY

Pricing Decisions: a practical guide to interdivisional transfer pricing policy. Alexander Young. Business Books. £15.

THE increasing number of large companies has created a growing need to develop effective internal price mechanisms. When the disciplines of the market no longer apply because trading units do most of their dealing with other divisions of a large group, some substitute system is required.

The problem is easily solved, of course, if internal prices are simply laid down by the head office. But much emphasis is laid nowadays on the merits of decentralisation, as a way of giving incentives to divisional management. It is better for a

division to be a profit centre rather than just a cost centre; but that implies a control over revenues as well as over costs.

Dr. Young's book is essentially about how transfer pricing can be made a logical process. On the one hand, arbitrary pricing will destroy the incentives of divisional management and will fail to provide the top executives of the group with information which they could use to judge management performance. On the other hand, flexible or so-called "arm's length" pricing can give too much weight to the personalities involved. "Inter-divisional transfer price staff work and arguments can represent one of the purest forms of overhead," an executive of Kaiser Aluminium is quoted as saying frostily.

The author comes down firmly in favour of flexible and sensitive systems. For instance, the prices of outside suppliers may provide some kind of market-related reference point. But this will be by no means always the case, and it will be necessary to fall back on negotiated prices. If these are determined without reference to information relating to the outside market, the relative profit of the two divisions trading with each other will depend more on anything else on the bargaining ability of the respective divisional managers in negotiations which could take up a lot of executive time. Dr. Young does not fully explain how such problems can be satisfactorily overcome.

And at the international level quite different priorities apply. Here notions of efficiency and local autonomy are swamped by political considerations. Taxation is, of course, the key point; governments are highly conscious of the way that transfer prices can be used to shift profits from countries where corporate profits are taxed highly to those where the environment is more favourable to multinational companies. Tariffs are also relevant, being lower in absolute terms when the transfer price is low (though the saving will be offset by higher taxation). So in the vast majority of cases transfer prices are fixed by head office executives on a "flexible" basis, flexibility meaning that they comply with tax and customs authorities' rulings on a case-by-case basis.

## What to deduce from accounts

BY DAVID FREUD

Interpreting Company Accounts by Geoffrey Holmes and Alan Sugden. Woodhead-Faulkner, 8, Market Passage, Cambridge. £9.75.

THIS is an excellent and long-overdue book. It aims at showing how the non-specialist can use information published by companies to build up a picture of their financial health and prospects. To this end it outlines the legislation under

which the company sector operates, but goes far further than the standard textbooks by describing the way the rules are observed in practice.

Again, unlike the textbooks, the reader feels in contact with the real world. Each point is made with the help of examples drawn from genuine company accounts; and the ways in which companies try to disguise poor performances, together with their motives for doing so, are well signposted.

The book is wholly successful in its aim of providing a guide for "anybody with a reasonably enquiring mind" on how to take to pieces a set of reports and accounts. Along the way it provides powerful ammunition to disprove Clive Jenkins' statement: "Published accounts are utterly and absolutely useless."

The authors—Mr. Holmes, editor of the magazine Accounting, and merchant banker Mr. Sugden—work from the basics up using non-technical language all the way, defining and explaining all the terms they use. While pointing to the uses

to which accounts can be put, they do not hesitate to point out the omissions that the legislation still permits. For instance, under British practice little or nothing is disclosed about most of the expenses of businesses.

The inevitable drawback of publishing a book which deals with the real world and uses up-to-the-minute examples, is that lengthy publishing schedules lead to it being out of date. The discussion on inflation accounting falls to mention Exposure Draft 24, for example, while the implications drawn about exchange control have been overtaken by the Government's changes.

The authors are not afraid to step into some of the current disputes over accounting practices, such as treatment of deferred tax and leasing. The rights and wrongs of the issues involved are not examined in great detail, but the ways in which different treatments of these items can affect the accounts is clearly demonstrated.

There are also some witty accounts of the obvious pitfalls

Any company that doubles its profits year after year is in all probability bound for disaster, we are told, if only because it is likely to be highly geared and therefore very vulnerable to any marked downturn.

Characteristic British understatement must be taken into account, and the authors say that all warning systems should be set to "red alert" if the auditors qualify a company report and do not seek re-selection. Watch out also, for the whizz-kid or, in U.S. jargon, the gunslinger, who assembles a gigantic empire by issuing new shares in a bull market, which collapses when the market tops out.

One of the most important requirements for budding analysts is the ability to interpret chairman's statements. A no-growth company is likely to remain a no-growth company unless the management itself or its attitude changes. In this respect it is highly encouraging when a chairman admits to a mistake or to being caught wrong-footed and reports what is or has been done about it.

## Big company currency

BY BARRY RILEY

Foreign Exchange and the Corporate Treasurer by John Heywood, Adam and Charles Black. £8.90.

CORPORATE treasurers, especially those of the big multi-

national companies, are nowadays the popularly imagined villains of the foreign exchange markets, easy targets for politicians who complain that their policies are being done by "speculators." Whether such company officials are speculating, or are only seeking to protect their companies against risk, is a question which requires definitions before it can possibly be given an answer.

But how better to get a grip on the problem than through reading a book which is actually aimed at introducing the corporate treasurer to the foreign exchange markets?

Here the core of the matter turns out to be something described as selective cover, which means covering forward only when it appears to be justified by the risk of devaluation. If the forward discount is less than the measure of the risk—defined as the likely degree of devaluation multiplied by the probability of it happening within the period of cover—then the transaction is worthwhile.

This is highly subjective, of course. But John Heywood brings out a curious feature of the foreign exchange market—that the cost of forward cover does not relate very directly to the scale of the currency risk. This is because forward premiums and discounts relate only to interest rate differentials against the dollar, and since such differentials have not increased in recent years in proportion to the scale of currency swings, forward cover has come to offer much better value for money, as an insurance pre-

mium than it used to. The politicians, by implication, are unwilling to push domestic interest rates high (or low) enough to make forward currency dealing unprofitable for the corporate treasurers.

Mr. Heywood, who is in charge of foreign exchange operations at Hambros Bank, covers much more than just the forward market. He gives systematic descriptions of dealing procedures and discusses all the foreign exchange problems that might face a corporate treasurer. Unfortunately, the abolition of UK exchange controls has rendered part of the advice out of date. Yet the new freedom opens up enormous new scope for forward currency activity.

## Constantly amazed

The author is an unashamed propagandist for the cause of foreign exchange dealing. He is "constantly amazed" that companies should devote so much more effort to trying to reduce production costs than to squeezing an extra margin out of currency exposures. But what about that question of speculation? Well, says Mr. Heywood, speculation is seeking to profit from deals that have no relation to normal underlying commercial transactions, whereas selective cover is a defensively motivated attempt to contain costs. So who's got a clear conscience, then?

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Companies and Markets

# Japan may halt beef trade with Australia

TOKYO—The Japanese Government is considering a partial or total ban on imports of Australian beef because of the suspected outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Tasmania. An Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry spokesman said the Ministry would decide policy on Australian beef after British experts decide, probably early this week, whether the disease which has hit pigs in Tasmania is actually foot-and-mouth.

He said Tasmania had already been asked to stop exporting beef to Japan, and that "there is a possibility of a total ban" if there is a genuine outbreak of the disease.

The Australian Government has reportedly already destroyed about 700 head of cattle and pigs in Tasmania. AP

# World fish meal stocks rise

WORLD CARRYOVER stocks of fish meal on October 1 stood at 870,000 tonnes, up 30,000 from a year earlier and their highest level for eight years, the weekly publication Oil World estimates.

It attributes the stocks increase to the fact that although demand over the past year rose by 11 per cent it failed to match the combined availability from an 8 per cent boost in production and the large stocks left over from 1977-78.

Oil World estimates world 1978-79 fish meal output at 4.7m tonnes compared with 4.33m a year earlier.

Reuter

# Orkney abattoir plan approved

Financial Times Reporter

A NEW £1.2m abattoir planned for Orkney has been approved by the Island's council. The project will consist of a killing unit, a processing plant and a knacker.

Both the Orkney Islands Council and the Fatstock Marketing Board are committed to the project. The council will provide the building and equipment at Barmston, Kirkwall, which will be handed over to the operating company, when it is formed.

# Easier trend in sterling lifts base metals

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

THE FALL in the value of sterling yesterday brought a generally firmer trend on the London Metal Exchange. Copper, the upward mover, with cash wirebars gaining £18.5 to £947 a tonne.

Dealers claimed there had been a shift in market sentiment in London and New York. In London, last week's removal of exchange controls cast doubts about the strength of sterling.

At the same time, the continued decline in LME warehouse stocks provides a firm underpin. Last week warehouse stocks fell for the 45th week in succession. The decline of 1,200 tonnes cut total holdings to 147,050 tonnes—the lowest total since January 1975.

In New York, Asarco announced it had raised its domestic producer price by 2 cents a pound, reflecting the rise in the market.

Fears of an industrial recession cutting demand next year still remain, but it is generally considered that any reduction in consumption will be matched by cutbacks in supplies, especially if prices fall.

Zambia is known to be facing further difficulties in exporting copper following the destruction of vital bridges on the Dar es Salaam export route and is reported to be cutting back again on supply contract commitments next year.

Zaire, too, faces continuing problems with production and transport.

Tin prices gained ground yesterday, despite an un-

expected rise in warehouse stocks—up by 55 tonnes to a total of 1,945 tonnes when a decline had been forecast.

Apart from the weakness of sterling, tin prices were also boosted by a further advance in the Peking market over the weekend with reports of some strong consumer buying interest.

Lead and zinc both followed the upward trend in copper, encouraged by trade buying and warehouse stocks declines. Lead stocks fell by 525 to 20,800 tonnes, while zinc holdings declined by 825 to 48,275 tonnes.

There was a sharp rise in aluminium warehouse stocks, by 2,400 to 13,400 tonnes, but values held firm. The cash price, which gained £17 to £244.5 a tonne, is still at 543 pence.

Nickel stocks fell by 163 to 5,574 tonnes, but in this trading conditions the cash price lost £7.5 to £2,735 a tonne, while three-months rose by £12.5 to £2,805.

LME silver holdings suffered a big drop of 1,240,000 ounces, cutting total warehouse stocks to 12,360,000 ounces—the lowest level for four and a half years.

However the fall in stocks as usual had little impact on market values, since LME warehouse holdings represent only a small proportion of world silver stocks.

The market was more influenced by the easier trend in gold and the generally "bearish" trend in precious metals.

At the morning fixing, the London bullion spot quotation was cut by 32.4p to 750.20p a troy ounce. However the market was not in a panic, as the London Metal Exchange, cash silver closed at 755p, only 17p down.

# Tin pact range 'crucial'

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

ESTABLISHING acceptable price ranges for operation of the buffer stocks will be critical for establishing the proposed new International Tin Agreement, Douglas Anthony, Australian Trade and Resources Minister, warned yesterday, reported Reuter.

Mr. Anthony, told a meeting of the International Tin Council in Sydney he hoped the part played by the International Tin Price Review Panel, established by the Council to provide for

a systematic and objective approach to buffer stock pricing range, would be enhanced in the next agreement.

The Minister said he wanted to see the broadest possible participation in negotiations, due to start early next year. The existing pact expires in June next year.

Brazil and China, for example, were not members of the International Tin Agreement at present, he noted.

# Sugar prices lose early rise

BY RICHARD MOONEY

WORLD SUGAR ended lower on the London futures market yesterday after an early rise.

Reports that heavy flooding had "wrecked" 50 per cent of Egypt's cane crop encouraged a rise that lifted March delivery sugar to £171.25 a tonne at one stage. But the rise ebbed away as experts pointed out that, far from wrecking the harvest, flooding could actually be expected to boost sugar cane production.

By the close, March sugar was quoted at £167.65 a tonne, down £1.25 on the day.

Dealers said the early "bullish" sentiment was also affected by the Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries' (GEPLACSA) estimate that world consumption of sugar would exceed production by 3.38m tonnes in the 1979-80 season.

Unless world prices fall very sharply the International Sugar Organisation will consider tomorrow whether to declare quota shortfalls during the 1979 season should be reallocated among other International Sugar Agreement members.

Under the agreement, shortfalls are automatically reallocated to other members if the average price remains above 12 cents a pound for five consecutive market days, unless the ISO executive decides otherwise.

The average rose above this level for the first time last Thursday.

If the committee so decides 126,671 tonnes, the amount certain members have informed the ISO they will be unable to deliver against their quotas, will be redistributed with effect from November 5.

# Rain hits Colombian coffee

By Our Commodities Staff

Rain has caused heavy coffee losses in the Colombian producing area of Manizales, according to local grade sources.

The sources told London dealers yesterday that the weather has seriously disrupted harvesting and may have destroyed 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the crop in the area, mainly by knocking berries off the trees.

Some traders say shippers have warned that the nearby deliveries of Colombian coffee could be delayed.

There was market talk that the damage could amount to as much as 750,000 bags (60 kilos each) but most traders disputed this and put likely losses at just more than 200,000 bags.

New York Reuter reported that U.S. merchant Gordon Paton put U.S. roasting of green coffee from January 1 to October 26 at about 13,000 bags, against 12,650,000 bags in this same period last year.

The new markets, negotiated after two years of talks, will significantly increase Jamaica's output and utilise alumina production capacity which has been idle for two years.

Alumina production last year totalled 2,142m tonnes. None of this was shipped to the USSR, Hungary or Algeria. The island's largest market so far has been the U.S., which last year bought 576,000 tonnes. Other major purchasers were the UK (345,000), Norway (314,000) and Canada (314,000).

Industry spokesmen here, however, have said that the new markets will not affect the supply of alumina to the West. To meet the demands of the short term contracts (1980-83) the Government intends to purchase alumina from the three refining companies operating here. These are Alcoa, Alcan

# Indian tea export problems

CALCUTTA—The Indian tea industry faces a difficult task to regain its position as the world's major supplier of tea, J. Thomas and Co. Private, a leading Indian tea auctioneer, said in his annual tea report, published yesterday.

The market for India tea should stabilise in 1979-80, but India faced new inroads made into its traditional markets by Argentina, Iran, the Soviet Union and China, the report warned.

India's tea exports dropped to 160m kilos in 1978 from 221m in 1977 with exports to Britain down 60 per cent to 33.3m kilos, while East African producers increased their exports to 84.2m kilos from 60.5m in 1977.

The company said though the Government had removed its ceiling on tea exports and abolished export duty and stock registration, the Indian tea industry would need incentives to recapture lost ground in world markets.

India tea had an inherent potential to recapture its markets, and in spite of global inflation, Western buyers are still prepared to pay a premium for bright quality tea, the report said.

Reuter

# Export boost for bauxite industry

BY CANUTE JAMES IN KINGSTON

JAMAICA HAS secured contracts for supplying alumina to the USSR and Hungary. Delivery is to begin early next year.

Under short-term contracts, the island, the world's second largest exporter of bauxite ore, will supply 150,000 tonnes of alumina per year to Hungary between 1980 and 1982. The USSR is to be supplied with 50,000 tonnes per year over the same period.

The island has also obtained longer-term contracts for supplies from 1984 onwards. The USSR has contracted to purchase 250,000 tonnes per year, and Hungary 150,000 tonnes per year. Another contract has been signed with Algeria for 150,000 tonnes of alumina each year from 1984.

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Industry spokesmen here, however, have said that the new markets will not affect the supply of alumina to the West. To meet the demands of the short term contracts (1980-83) the Government intends to purchase alumina from the three refining companies operating here. These are Alcoa, Alcan

and Alpart—the latter owned jointly by Kaiser, Reynolds and Anaconda.

Under agreements for State participation in Alcan and Alcoa, the Government already has access to 110,000 tonnes per year of the 200,000 tonnes it will need to 1983. It is planned to bring bauxite refining capacity into full use to meet demands of the new markets. Capacity has been under-utilised with bauxite ore extraction

dropping from 15m tonnes in 1974 to 11.5m tonnes last year. The Government also expects that the recent reduction in the level of the controversial bauxite production levy will make Jamaican bauxite and alumina operations more competitive, and that the companies will bring both mining and refining operations back to full capacity.

The increased quantities of alumina needed for the longer-term contracts are to be met through the building of a twice-shafted refinery on the south coast. The plant, originally a joint project between Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela, would have supplied alumina to a smelter in Vera Cruz. However, the Mexicans withdrew soon after the Lopez Portillo Government took office.

The Government feels that the markets have made the project worthwhile, and feasibility studies are being carried out by Hungarian and Jamaican technicians.

The Government will also consider taking up an option it has for obtaining 550,000 tonnes of alumina each year by doubling the island's Alcoa refinery capacity. This option is also a part of the agreement reached between the government and the parent company.

Sources in the industry have suggested that both the new plant and the expanded Alcoa plant are being actively considered by the Government.

Once the refining capacity can be brought on line, Government spokesmen say, there will be no problem supplying the new markets. Jamaica's known bauxite ore reserves have been estimated at just over 2bn tonnes.

The price of the alumina will be determined by the Government's bauxite production levy which is pegged to the price of aluminium ingot on the U.S. market.

Mr. Horace Clarke, the island's Mining Minister, has said that for 1980 to 1983, the Government estimated an average market price in excess of 60 U.S. cents per pound for aluminium ingot.

Depending on the relationship between the prices of alumina and aluminium ingot used in medium term contracts, and taking into account shipping costs, he said, the Government envisaged an average delivered price of \$200 a tonne.

# EEC expected to raise wheat exports

WASHINGTON—The U.S. so far has not lost any sales abroad due to the EEC's wheat export subsidies in 1979-80, but the Community will probably increase the volume of exports and subsidy levels soon, Mr. Michael Hall, president of Great Plains Wheat, said yesterday.

So far this season, EEC wheat sales under the subsidy programme had been small,

totaling about 175,000 tonnes and to nations such as Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, Mr. Hall said.

But he thought the EEC would probably have to increase the subsidy levels, in light of its large crop this year, the Community's high stock levels carried over from the 1978-79 year and increased competition on the world market.

Mr. Hall returned to Wash-

ington on Sunday after meetings with EEC officials in Brussels earlier this month and with Soviet officials in Moscow.

He noted that on November 8, the EEC opens wheat tenders for 300,000 tonnes to China and 200,000 tonnes to South America. He expected another 100,000 tonnes of wheat to be made available soon to South America.

Reuter

# BRITISH COMMODITY MARKETS

## BASE METALS

COPPER—Gained ground on the London Metal Exchange with the price underpinned by the weakness of sterling. Forward metal traded around £280 in the morning with good support evident below £280. Good demand for cash material coupled with chertier buying lifted the price to the day's high of £284 before a reaction on Comex pared values to £281 on the late Korb. Turnover: 16,678 tonnes.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Wirebars	947.5-951.5	+18.7	946.5	+18.7
Cash	957.5-961.5	+18.7	960.1	+18.7
Standard	958.5-962.5	+18.7	961.5	+18.7
Cathodes	957.5-961.5	+18.7	960.1	+18.7
U.S. Prod.	958-961	+18.7	960.5	+18.7

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in the morning cash wirebars stood at £284.45; three months £280.51, 52, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 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# British Funds lead technical recovery in markets with gains to £1¼—Equity index rallies 6.6 to 446.8

## Account Dealing Dates

\*First Declared Last Account  
Dealings close Dealings Day  
Oct. 22 Nov. 1 Nov. 12  
Nov. 3 Nov. 15 Nov. 16  
Nov. 19 Nov. 29 Nov. 30 Dec. 10  
\*New time dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

The technical recovery movement which was confidently expected last Friday at the end of the first week of freedom from UK exchange controls developed yesterday in London stock markets, bringing a welcome halt to the recent spell of weakness in both main investment sectors.

Leading equities started the movement but it was the rally in Government stocks which provided the real impetus. A squeeze on short commitments in the latter market intensified as the day progressed and led to thoughts that market's over-sold position was possibly larger than originally anticipated. Speculation that the authorities had been bid, and rejected, a low price for supplies of the partly-paid long term Exchangeable 12 per cent "A" 1999-2002, the final call on which is due today, aided the better tone.

The outcome was that longer gilts regained a maximum of 14 points and the shorts, too, were nearly a point up in places, with the exception of low coupon stocks. These remained depressed and the special short term gilts, which had fallen a point more to 74½ in reflection of its diminished attractions since the Budget to higher tax payers.

The rally in the equity leaders, albeit on a more modest scale, was encouraged by bear covering combined with a certain amount of cheap buying. There was not

a great deal of force behind the latter but in a market seemingly over-sold after the recent equity decline, prices were quick to respond.

Nevertheless, after the initial flurry of activity, which took the FT 30-share index up 6.3 at 11 am and an ensuing modest reaction when trading almost came to a standstill, many leading industrial shares were edging a little higher in the late trade and the index closed 6.6 up at the day's best of 446.8.

Despite the company's denial of a takeover approach, Cons. Gold Fields still attracted a sizeable business in traded options, contributing 314 trades to a total of 853, against Friday's figure of 1,206.

Vitatron, which staged a highly successful debut last week despite adverse general market conditions, attracted fresh investment support and firming 11 to 277½; the placing price was 175p.

## Sterling credit fall

Sterling Credit became a notable late casualty in the banking sector, falling 4 to a 1979 low of 15p in reaction to the chairman's bearish remarks at the annual meeting. The major clearing moved higher with the general trend and Lloyds rose 6 to 288p as did Midland, to 344p, while Barclays, 405p, and NatWest, 337p, gained 5 pence. Bank of Scotland edged forward a couple of pence to 260p despite publicity given to a broker's adverse circular. Allied Irish held firmly at 113p ahead of tomorrow's interim results. Merchant banks were firm. Hambros gave up 6 to 304p and Schroders relinquished 15 to 455p in a thin market. Still reflecting the

interim profits setback, Minister Assets eased a fraction more to a 1979 low of 49p.

Insurance gained ground in the course of a small turnover. Royals firmed 5 to 325p and GRE rose 4 to 235p. Commercial Union improved 3 to 128p; the third-quarter results are due on November 15. London and Manchester put 6 to 140p and Hambro Life 3 to 113p.

Sentiment improved in Breweries and Allied settled a penny harder at 91½p. Elsewhere, Sandeman encountered small buying and closed 5 up at 70p, but Kellaway eased the turn to 38p following the highly qualified interim statement. Border held steady at 80p in front of tomorrow's half-time results. Distillers moved ahead in an extremely thin trade, Arthur Bell closing a couple of pence better at 185p on further consideration of Friday's preliminary results. Distillers improved 4 to 224p.

Many Building descriptions made modest progress on the appearance of a few cheap buyers, but overall business was disappointing. Among the leaders, Blue Circle added a couple of pence at 264p, while London Brick hardened a penny to 68p. Hoversham issues, however, still reflecting the sharply lower interim profits, gave further ground; the ordinary shed 5 to 68p and the restricted voting shares fell 3 to 67p. In Contracting and Construction, Brown's moved higher to 200p, while Marchewell rallied 4 to 88p. In contrast, SGB, recently the subject of bid speculation, eased 5 to 273p. Timbers made late progress with Travis and Arnold adding 4 to 228p and Magnet and Southern firmed 5 to 152p.

Although turnover was small, ICI picked up 6 to 342p with the help of bear covering. Laporte was quoted at 97p as the rights issue, down 3, while the new paid shares opened at 5p premium and closed at 4p premium. Among overseas issues, Norsk Hydro were also quoted at the rights issue at 23½ with the rights to the new paid shares, which become available in December, at 110.

## Wearwell good

Burton "A" continued to beat a retreat in Stores, falling 12 further to 246p as persistent selling and lack of support. Mothercare, on the other hand, rose 4 more to 188p following favourable comment on the better-than-expected interim results. UDS hardened 2 to 85p and Marks and Spencer edged forward a penny to 51p. An investment recommendation drew buyers' attention to Wearwell and, after touching a 1979 peak of 53p, the close was 10p higher on balance at 51p. Adverse comment clipped 6 from Wallis at 86p, while J. Sainsbury eased 2 to 67p awaiting today's preliminary results. James Beattie "A" low 6 to 153p and A. G. Stanley reacted a few pence to 69p. Unsettled still by the lower annual profits, Bolton Textile softened 2 more to 20p. Contrasting movements among Shoes were provided by Strong and Fisher, which gained 6 to 84p, and Style, 10 lower at 200p. EMI touched 143p before closing unaltered at 140p compared with the share exchange offer worth 135p per share from Thoron. Elsewhere in Electricals, GEC picked up 5 to 331p and Rascal Electronics gained a like amount to 223p. Press-inspired rises of 8 and 3 respectively were recorded in Eurochem, 305p, and Jones Stodd, 77p.

## NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1979

The following securities noted by the Share Information Service between the start of the year and 29th October 1979.

### NEW HIGHS (8)

Stock	High
London & Lancashire (1)	100.00
Wearwell Engineering (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Est. Nat. Ind. (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00

### NEW LOWS (8)

Stock	Low
London & Lancashire (1)	100.00
Wearwell Engineering (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Est. Nat. Ind. (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00
Circle (1)	100.00

Automated Security put on 5 to 180p. AB Electronics, on the other hand, declined 7 to 156p and Laurence Scott, 72p, and Pethow, 60p, shed 4 apiece.

Leading Engineering took a modest turn for the better, largely on technical influences. Vickers, a depressed market of late, rallied 4 to 126p, while Tubes picked up a similar amount at 276p and gains of 3 were recorded in John Brown, where in Hotels and Caterers, Grand Metropolitan and Trust House Forte improved 4 apiece to 143p and 148p respectively.

## Reed int. firm

Miscellaneous Industrial leaders moved higher mainly on technical influences. Averaging today's first half figures, Reed International improved 5 to 165p, while Peccham, with interim

figures due on November 22, added a similar amount to 137p.

Unilever firmed 6 to 490p and Reckitt and Colman 5 to 265p. Elsewhere, Wilkinson March advanced 6 to 158p on renewed speculative support. Similar improvements were seen in BTR, 287p, and Marshall's Universal, 138p. Dunbee Comber Marx hardened a penny ahead of tomorrow's half-time, while Howard Thomas at 87p, and Christie Tyler at 86p, both improved around a penny in response to Press comment. An unsettled market of late, Chubb reacted 2 more to 100p after fresh unfavourable comment. Davies and Newman eased 2 to 132p; the interim figures are due on Friday. Clement Clarke lost 6 to 130p as did Granada "A" to 143p, while G. W. Sparrow declined 5 to 150p.

Deals in Wadham-Stringer were suspended at 42p following a bid approach from an unnamed suitor. Toner Kemsley, which loses its MTV franchise at the end of the year, is rumoured to be a contender for Wadham-Stringer. Other BL distributors moved ahead in sympathy. Henlys added 6 at 107p, while rises of around 5 were seen in Lex Service, 90p, and Kemsley, 70p. In contrast, Motor Components closed with an easier

appearance. Dowty fell 8 to 270p, while fading bid hopes left Zeith Carburettor 3 lower at 76p. Armstrong Equipment eased a shade to 53p on the news that the company is interested in purchasing GKN's alloy bolworks at Darlaston.

Properties put up a better performance and increased late interest extended modest early gains. Land Securities finished 4 higher at 184p. Stock Conversion picked up 6 to 376p, while Great Portland Estates, 198p and Haslemere, 274p, added 4 apiece, the last named with the aid of a broker's recommendation. Still awaiting the bid terms from Eagle Star, Bernard Sunley firmed 10 to 625p. Elsewhere, Percy Bilton improved 6 to 225p and Fairview Estates 5 to 225p, while Corn Exchange recovered 7 to 294p.

## Oil's quiet

Business in Oils was subdued awaiting the proposed Government sale of BP shares due shortly, but prices usually made modest progress. British Petroleum and Shell hardened 4 apiece to 378p and 345p respectively. Outside the leaders, Barmah firmed 4 to 183p on compensation hopes, while favourable weekend Press comment prompted a gain of 3 to 278p in British Borneo. Also reacting a newspaper mention, Cluff put on 75 to 725p, while a speculative flurry lifted Viking 30 to 380p.

Following details of the placing of 19 per cent of the equity of Quest Automation with the Stock Exchange secondary market, dealings were resumed in Gresham House (which holds 39 per cent of Quest) at 205p. The shares were suspended on October 18 at 145p. Elsewhere, Trusts traded quietly with most changes restricted to a couple of pence either way. Hambros rose 7 at 113p, while Viking Resources closed 3 better at 143p.

Among generally firmer Textiles, Courtaulds added 2 at 35p. Sirdar, at 127p, recovered most of Friday's fall of 5, but John Crowther fell 3 to 19p on the first half loss and cautious tone of the accompanying statement.

## Gold Fields surge

Basis issues came in for late support and gains of around 6 were common to the ordinary, 280p, and deferred, 247p. Lannua featured quiet Teas, rising 15 to 305p, after 305p, on the sharply increased third-quarter profits.

Gold Fields were the centre of attraction in mining markets as growing speculation of a bid

approach led to a heavy turnover and pushed the shares up to a 1979 high of 314p before profit-taking left them a net 23 up to 310p. Last Wednesday Gold Fields were changing hands at 250p.

The rumours surrounding Gold Fields spilled over into Gold Fields of South Africa, which added 1½ at 200, despite the general downturn. South African Gold Fields of Australia also attracted a good deal of attention to close 20 up at 275p.

The recovery in the UK equity market and the surge in Gold Fields led to a bid for the company in other London Financials where Rio Tinto-Zinc climbed 13 to 286p and Charter rose 3 to 165p. Nervousness over Thursday's U.S. Treasury auction of up to 1.25m ounces of gold deterred buyers of South African Gold. Prices drifted from the outset reflecting lack of interest and

a marginally easier bullion price. Towards the close, U.S. selling was reported and heavyweights consequently registered losses of up to 1½ in West Driffield, 231p. Medium- and lower-priced stocks showed Doornfontein 18 cheaper at 314p and Venterspost 16 off at 289p.

The Gold Mines Index fell 6½ to 187.5, a loss of 184 over the past three trading days. South African Financials were generally easier in quiet trading. Transvaal Consolidated Land gave up 3 to 123½ in front of the annual results, which were not known during market hours, up to 1½ in West Driffield, 231p. Medium- and lower-priced stocks showed Doornfontein 18 cheaper at 314p and Venterspost 16 off at 289p.

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